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Washington, Jan 28

Profile of the Queen, page 6

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Periodicals Daily

Suicidal Aslef, by Rodgers

The attitude of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen in the dispute causing the rail strike is suicidal, Mr. William Rodgers, one of the joint leaders of the Social Democrats, said. "No sane government will invest in electrification and renewal if a handful of men and a bloody-minded union break agreements and exploit their bargaining power." Page 2

Police hurt in Bristol clashes

Two policemen were injured, one seriously, in two nights of clashes in Bristol between groups of white and black youths. Thirteen black and eight white youths were arrested and extra police were in the streets. Page 2

Rape decision not Fairbairn's

Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, who resigned as Solicitor General for Scotland over the Glasgow rape case, said yesterday that the decision not to prosecute was not taken by him and he had no knowledge of it at the time. Back page

Owen leadership move attacked

Several SDP MPs voiced fears that the party might get involved in the damaging contest for the leadership. They were critical of Dr David Owen, who recently said he wanted a contest, and some spoke of a "sex Roy Jenkins" move. Page 2

Schmidt plays down illness

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, played down reports that he had been taken ill at a local SDP party conference on Saturday. He insisted that a formula for financing an unemployment scheme must be found by Wednesday. Back page

Ritchie-Calder dies at 75

Lord Ritchie-Calder, the scientist and journalist, died yesterday in Edinburgh, aged 75. Starting as a junior reporter on a local newspaper, he became an international scientific authority and was made a life peer in 1966. A Times obituary will appear tomorrow.

Industry call to cut fuel bill

The steel industry is spearheading renewed demands that the Government should act to cut energy-intensive industries' fuel bills. The steel industry last year paid out £520m for gas, electricity and fuel oil. Page 11

CIA tried to hire Bani-Sadr

Agents of the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) tried and failed to recruit Mr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr as an informant before he became president of Iran, according to an account in *The Washington Post*. Page 4

UK wins record Far East deal

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, has announced a credit agreement for the largest package of British goods and services yet exported to Indonesia. The deal, worth £125m, will help in the expansion of an oil refinery. Page 6

Masterful Davis earns revenge

Steve Davis won the final of the Benson and Hedges Masters tournament at Wembley, when he beat Terry Griffiths 9-5. Davis gained revenge for his defeat by Griffiths in the Lada tournament earlier in the month. Sydney Friskin, page 15.

Sinai force

The Israeli Cabinet has agreed to the participation of Britain, France, Holland and Italy in the international force which is to police Sinai after it is returned to Egypt on April 26. Page 4

Letters: On disconnecting fuel supplies, from Mr Alex Henney; Roosevelt and power, from Mr P. F. Breakell; long-distance parishes, from Mr Alan Mattingly. Leading articles: European air fares; President Reagan's visit to Europe. Features, pages 6 and 8: Thirty years a Queen; a profile by Alan Hamilton; what Suslov's death could mean for Soviet Communism; Obituary, page 10. Mr Stanley Holloway.

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205 arrested in clashes near Gdansk shipyard

By Our Foreign Staff

Fourteen people were injured and 205 arrested when police clashed with youths who tried to storm public buildings in Gdansk, the Polish news agency PAP reported yesterday.

It was the first report of street disturbances this year in Poland, and the worst in Gdansk since being declared on December 13. The trouble reportedly started on Saturday evening when a group of youths began shouting and distributing anti-state leaflets near the Baltic port's Lenin shipyard. PAP said many people were returning home from work and initially showed little interest in the demonstration.

Police arrived and quickly restored order but the organisers later tried again to stir up trouble in the centre of the city and refused to disperse when ordered by the police, PAP reported. The demonstrators attempted to attack public buildings and behaved aggressively towards the police, who finally chased them from the scene. Eight policemen were among the injured.

By 8 pm the city was calm, the agency said. It described the incidents—which occurred two days before today's introduction of drastic price increases for basic foods and for fuel and electricity—as a serious violation of martial law. PAP said the majority of those arrested were students and secondary school pupils, and their offences were being considered by summary courts.

The agency said that, because of the disturbances, martial law authorities had tightened restrictions in the city, cut off telephone services, banned the use of private cars and extended the curfew by three hours. It now ran from 8 pm to 5 am.

According to the Interior Ministry, the measures were aimed at showing that Polish authorities "are determined to make order and calm reign". The ministry also accused the "irresponsible elements" who provoked the incidents, of taking advantage of measures taken by the authorities to ease the restrictions of the state of siege.

Communications from Warsaw have been severed since the military crackdown and Western correspondents are not allowed to travel outside Warsaw. There was no immediate word on why PAP did not report the riot until last night.

The Polish authorities were planning to relax some of the stricter martial law restrictions, partly to ease everyday life for the population but also to ensure the smooth running of the economy (Roger Boyes writes in an earlier dispatch from Warsaw).

Further relaxation of travel and curfew hours had been expected to be announced over the next 10 days. A report from the economic necessity of some of these measures, the Government appears to be motivated by two other considerations. The first is to show a degree of responsiveness to public pressure, as articulated by the Roman Catholic Church, and to improve its image in the West. It is now evident that many of the Gdansk shipyarders—not just the Lenin yard but also the other yards—have been closed for a fortnight, workers having been told to take two weeks holiday. This partly reflects a dearth of orders but also the real fear that the birthplace of Solidarity would become a rallying point for fresh protests. Go slow protests are, according to unofficial sources, planned in Wroclaw factories and at the Ursus tractor factory in Warsaw.



World champion, 19, skiing in the rain

The new first lady of skiing, 19-year-old Erika Hess of Switzerland, showing extraordinary balance in winning the special slalom on a rain-soaked piste at Schladming, Austria. "Described by her coach as a 'nature girl' with strong nerves, Fraulien Hess, took the gold medal yesterday in the first combined downhill and slalom event to be staged. Erika has been described as a living advertisement for her native country—not to speak of her equipment and sponsors. She comes from a farm near Interlaken in the Alps. The supreme slalom specialist of the past two seasons, at one point winning 10 out of 11 races, she gave another demonstration of her flawless technique yesterday, clocking the fastest time on the first leg, but taking care on the second, which was run on a chemically-treated course. (Page 16).

Avalanche kills 12 teenagers

Salzburg, Jan 31—Twelve young West Germans were killed in an avalanche which buried a party of 18 on a ski slope near here today. One other was still missing.

Police said that six youths were rescued unhurt from the avalanche. The party had been led by an experienced West German skiing instructor, Hermann Tom, who disregarded an avalanche warning, they added. The group had been following a skiing course on the 1,400 metres (4,600 feet) Elmau mountain, near the village of Werfening. It was made up of students and teachers from a private school in the Bavarian town of Berchtesgaden, near the Austrian border. They came from various parts of West Germany. The rescue operation involved more than 140 police, firemen and other rescue workers, equipped with powerful search lights. Police said that dozens of volunteers also joined in bringing lamps and torches to help light up the scene of the accident.

The rescue was carried out in constant danger of further avalanches, after a day of unseasonably warm weather throughout eastern Austria. Police reported that the avalanche broke loose shortly after 3 pm (14.00 GMT). The alarm was raised by a member of the school group, who managed to free himself from the snow, and alerted the proprietor of a mountain-top inn. The search carried on long after dark, with searchlights combing the pitch-dark slopes. The operation was finally called off after seven hours, because of the threat of a new avalanche.

The Elmau is located in the pine-forested Tennen mountain range, in Salzburg province. It is one of many steep ridges, and is popular with holidaymakers for its picturesque ski trails.

One person remained missing in the late evening.

National strike threat against labour Bill

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Senior leaders of the trade union movement yesterday warned the country of outright opposition, including the use of political strikes, to the Government's proposed labour legislation. Involving memories of the union's opposition to the Heath Government's Industrial Relations Act, the officials, who included general secretaries of the country's three biggest unions, said that they were even prepared to embark on a national strike to defeat the Employment Bill.

They expressed anger particularly at clauses in the Bill which allow for compensation of up to £20,000 for workers who refuse to join a union where a closed shop exists would lead to the creation of "bounty hunters". Mr Duffy said he believed that the Government would try to establish case law in an area involving one union and would hope that the rest of the movement would rest that union in isolation or not support it. "I feel, again sadly, that that act by the Government will mean that the whole of the trade union movement could be involved in a national strike," he said.

Asked by Brian Walden, the programme's presenter, whether ordinary trade unionists would be prepared to strike against clauses in the Bill when it was enacted, Mr Duffy replied: "When we request our people to show loyalty to the trade union movement, that loyalty will be forthcoming."

That view had been rejected earlier in the programme by Mr Tidd who said he thought the legislation would "stick". The mood of workers on the shop floor, he added, was much more realistic than that of their union leaders. Recent experiences had shown that "trade union leaders who try to go out on a political crusade are not followed by their members."

The TUC is organizing a special conference of union executives in April to mount opposition to the legislative proposals.

Grants veto clause to be dropped

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government has decided to amend the most controversial feature of its second attempt to get new legislation on local government finance through Parliament. The decision, which will be seen as another defeat for the Treasury, has been taken as a result of opposition from the same alliance of local authority associations and backbench Conservative MPs that ultimately forced Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, to drop his plans to force councils wishing to spend over a central limit to hold referendums.

The Government now accepts that to pass its Local Government Finance (No 2) Bill, now in its Commons committee stage, it will have to amend clause 4, which gives Mr Heseltine new power to withhold grants from councils after the financial year has begun. The clause, as it stands, Continued on back page, col 6

Effluent curse of the Sphinx

From Christopher Walker, Cairo, Jan 31

A combination of sewage, air pollution, salt, sun, sand and wind is seriously threatening the Sphinx, the majestic monument which has guarded the pyramids at Giza, on the outskirts of Cairo for nearly 5,000 years.

Yesterday, Dr Ahmed Kadri, the chairman of Egypt's official antiquities department, told a parliamentary committee that recent restoration work had failed to halt the deterioration of the 239ft long sun god, which has the body of a lion and the face of a human.

At a time when Egypt's economy is facing severe problems, Dr Kadri said that £340,000 was urgently needed for repairs. He suggested the setting up of a fund and pointed out that recent restoration work had been very limited "and in medical terms had only had the effect of a tranquillizer".

The gravity of the problems facing the inscrutable limestone monument have long been a cause for concern among archaeologists. They were brought home dramatically to the Egyptian public last November when the Sphinx's left leg, comprising 120 blocks of stone put there by restorers in Graeco-Roman times, fell off.

Earlier, Al Ahram had conducted a vigorous campaign designed to alert the authorities to the danger that without rapid action, the monument erected on the orders of King Khephren, could be lost forever. Among suggestions made for preserving it was the suggestion of a protective glass bubble to act as a windshield.

Over the centuries the monument has had to be dug out of the encroaching desert sand on three occasions. But its latest troubles are more serious and largely result from the rising water table caused by the lack of any sewage system in the neighbouring hamlet of Nazlet el-Seuman.

As a result, the maze of underground passages in the area around the statue have become clogged by effluent. An American research team reported in 1978 that water was seeping into the porous limestone of the body and then evaporating to leave tiny crystals of salt which were making the stone brittle and fragile.

Controversy has surrounded recent attempts to cure the Sphinx's environmental problems, with some Egyptologists claiming that the attempted cures were often worse than the ailments.

In 1980 an attempt to replace blocks was halted after the discovery that one source of the rock weakening had been the use of bad mortar in previous restorations. In addition, the monument is under constant attack from sandstorms, the vicious extremes of temperature experienced in the desert, and more recently, air pollution from Cairo's traffic.

Bill would curb wives' rights

By Our Political Reporter

The Government is preparing legislation to change the laws on divorce which will reduce the rights of former wives to maintenance payments. Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, is anxious to act in the present parliamentary session on the recommendations of the Law Commission for England and Wales, made only last December, and hopes to include the proposals in the Administration of Justice Bill for which time has already been allotted in the government's programme and which will soon be introduced in the Lords.

It is argued that not to be possible to include the changes in that Bill, they might have to wait until the next session of Parliament. The Government has accepted the Law Commission's recommendation that the provision in section 25 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, which asks courts to try to make a settlement of the financial consequences of divorce should give greater emphasis to the principle that the divorced parties should aim to become self-sufficient and not continue to rely on maintenance from the other spouse.



Lord Hailsham: wants to act soon.

It said that the courts should give greater weight to a divorced wife's earning capacity and consider more often setting a time limit on maintenance orders where they feel that a wife needs time to adjust to her new situation, but she should not expect to rely on her former husband indefinitely.

Under the new legislation, courts will be able to order a financial "clean break", a once-for-all settlement, in appropriate cases, although the commission recognized that that would be almost impossible where there were young children.

It was pointed out in government circles yesterday that such cases would not be common. The sort of situation envisaged by the commission was a childless marriage which had lasted a comparatively short time and the wife had earning capacity. The legislation will result in the courts having to give greater overriding priority to the provision of adequate financial support for children.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Licensing of sex shops attacked

Mrs Mary Whitehouse, the campaigner against pornography, has written to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, to protest against local authorities getting powers to license sex shops under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, which comes up for its remaining stages in the House of Commons on Wednesday (A Staff Reporter writes).

She said yesterday: "This move is a political sharp practice on the part of those permissive in the Home Office who have consistently resisted all attempts to tighten up the obscenity laws."

The introduction of licensing will inevitably have the opposite effect to what the anxious public expects from it and will make the role of the police quite impossible. I call upon Mr Whitelaw to introduce effective obscenity legislation before this backdoor legalization of pornography takes hold."

£250,000 stolen from police safe

More than £250,000 in cheques and cash has been stolen from a safe in the offices of the Transport Police at Victoria Station, London.

No force was used to open the door was unlocked and the money removed. The disappearance of the cash and cheques, which was to have been evidence in a court case, occurred more than two weeks ago but was disclosed only yesterday.

Poll support for work sharing

Most people with jobs would agree to cut their hours to create work for the unemployed, according to a Gallup Poll published in *The Sunday Telegraph* yesterday. The poll, of 1,792 adults in more than 70 districts, also showed that 70 per cent of the respondents felt the Government should give priority to measures against unemployment rather than inflation.

Briton shares chess title

John Nunn, the British international grandmaster, has scored a great success in coming equal first with Balashov, the Soviet grandmaster, in the Grandmaster tournament which ended yesterday at Wijk aan Zee, in Harlem (our Chess Correspondent writes).

Boy accused of rape

A schoolboy, aged 15, is to appear before Camberwell juvenile court, in south London, today accused of raping and robbing a girl aged 19 in Lewisham on January 22 and also raping a girl aged 20, seven days later.

Driver on rape charge

A motorist is to appear before magistrates at Mildenhall, Suffolk, today accused of raping the wife of an American serviceman as she walked home from a party eight days ago.

Beating black ice

A device to warn motorists of black ice on roads is being developed at Nottingham University.

Correction

Tracy Stamp received a nine-month suspended sentence at Newport Crown Court, Gwent, on Friday, not a three-month suspended sentence as stated in the Press Association report published on Saturday.

BR may suspend guaranteed pay in Aslef dispute

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

British Rail, which yesterday took the first steps to stem the rising losses caused by the train drivers' strikes by refusing to pay all but essential maintenance workers, is considering further action to avoid paying wages when no trains are running.

As the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) held its third consecutive Sunday strike, BR told 50,000 workers, who would normally earn £25 an overtime rate for Sunday working, to stay at home. Only 15,000 maintenance men were instructed to report for duty.

The BR board meets tomorrow and may be forced into planning a suspension of the guaranteed weekly wage for its 170,000 workers so that it can avoid paying wages to other staff when Aslef members are holding their two-day mid-week strike.

A final decision on suspension of the guaranteed wage, which could also cause legal difficulties for BR, is said to be some way off. In the meantime, senior railway managers are planning to hope for a settlement of the dispute, now in its fourth week, on a successful intervention by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

Acas, after failing in other attempts to bring the sides closer together, has proposed a committee of inquiry, which has the backing of BR and the other rail unions but so far has not been approved by Aslef. The dispute is over BR's decision to withhold a 3 per cent pay increase from 20,000 train drivers because Aslef has not agreed to proposals for changes in rostering.

The Aslef executive is due to start meeting this afternoon but may not get around to discussing the inquiry until tomorrow, probably to await the result of the BR board's deliberations. The executive will also have to decide on future strategy but is unlikely to approve extended action or a variation of the tactic of

strikes on Sundays followed by stoppages on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

BR is thought to be prepared to let the dispute "ride" for a while in the hope of Acas succeeding in getting the committee of inquiry established. It is possible, although unlikely, that the inquiry could still go ahead even if Aslef declines to give evidence.

The railways have so far lost about £40m as a direct result of the strikes and losses continue to mount as the rate of about £6m each weekday when there are no trains.

The losses raise the possibility of another increase in fares to follow the 9.5 per cent rise last November. Sir Peter Parker, chairman of BR, said that he hoped to pay fares for 12 months. That may now be in jeopardy and an increase of about 9 per cent in the summer cannot be ruled out.

Mr William Rodgers, one of the leaders of the Social Democratic Party and Secretary of State for Transport in the former Labour government, entered the war of words surrounding the dispute last night when he described Aslef as "bloody-minded". He said: "I have previously avoided any comment on the rail dispute that might make a difficult situation worse. But now it must be said that the present attitude of Aslef is suicidal."

Railway guards, all National Union of Railwaymen members based at Brighton and Gillingham, Kent, last night threatened an unofficial strike today, which would cripple commuter services into London (the Press Association reports).

Their threat was in protest at being laid off yesterday because of the Aslef strike.

BR's Southern Region said last night that services from Brighton to London Bridge, and from the Kent coastal towns, would be severely disrupted if the strike took place.

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"I would call myself a defender of the faith, and that faith is my workmates' conditions of service. I do not think we are any more militant in Southern Region than anybody else," he argued.

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A senior British Rail source last night predicted that relations with the train drivers would deteriorate even further as a result of the election outcome.

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Mr Fullick himself vehemently denies any such charge, insisting: "As far as work is concerned, my politics and involvement with the Labour Party are one thing; what I am industrially is another. I am not a member of any way-out groups or bodies at all."

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Labour leaders begin to change tack on EEC

By George Clark, European Political Correspondent

Subtle changes in the Labour Party's presentation of its case for taking Britain out of the European Economic Community are being prepared to avert the looming crisis in relations with other socialist parties in Europe.

Confidential minutes of the last joint meeting of the Labour MEPs and the party's national executive committee in London, which *The Times* has obtained, reveal the dilemma.

The minutes say: "Mr [Wedge] Benn suggested that, rather than talk about 'withdrawal from Europe', an emotive phrase, we should start talking about 'extricating ourselves from the Treaty of Rome', which was factually more correct. He thought that MEPs should advise the NEC on relationships and cooperation with fraternal parties after withdrawal, and on the technical problems of exitation."

Mr Alfred Lomas, European MP for London, North-East, said that other members of the socialist group in the European Parliament "had a slightly more exaggerated view of our withdrawal than the rest of their parties".

A big effort will be made to patch up the differences when Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, and Mr Eric Heffer, the frontbencher spokesman on Europe, visit Brussels on Wednesday and Thursday next week to meet the 123 member socialist group of the European Parliament and, later, representatives of the party organizations in Europe.

Like it or not, the Labour Party has attracted to itself the isolationist, some say nationalist, slogan: "Let's get out of Europe!"

But Mr Foot and Mr Heffer, now strongly supported by Mr Benn, want to convince their European comrades that their object is really to move out of the

anti-socialist restrictions of the EEC into a wider European Community where there would be freedom to protect the interests of workers more effectively than is possible in a grouping dominated by big business.

The slogan, they say, should be: "We want to move into Europe!"

So far, Labour's public relations exercise has been a failure. The 17 Labour MEPs at Strasbourg are virtually excluded from important decisions taken by the socialist group in Europe, and the threat of British withdrawal also brushes off on to the Conservatives. Once again Britain is seen as a reluctant and ever-complaining partner.

One Labour MEP said yesterday of the British group's relations with their European socialist colleagues: "On a personal level we are friendly, but they show great hostility to our policy of coming out. We are often treated like mutineers."

"British Labour backbenchers hardly ever get selected as socialist spokesmen. Our only chance to speak at the plenary sessions is if we can get called on what is termed 'explanation of a vote', and even then we are limited to 90 seconds."

When the socialist group drafted a statement on Poland the British Labour MEPs were not given a chance to help in its composition. A British group which signed a motion on nuclear disarmament was cold-shouldered.

The minutes say: "Mrs Castle asked that details of why and how we are going to fight the European elections will be ready for Mr Foot when he visits Brussels in February. She felt that because our strategy had not been planned we were not winning the argument for withdrawal either on the doorsteps or in the social group."

Mr Heffer, appointed to his job shortly before the meeting, agreed there was much

opposition to Labour's policy and misunderstanding about it among European socialists. He said it was "important to explain the policy carefully, remembering that all parties are arguing from a basis of national interest, and stressing that we are not anti-European."

Mr Benn intervened again to emphasise "that Britain's position within the EEC was different from that of other EEC countries."

"With the exception of the Irish, we are the only people who have never lived under fascism and although membership is a diminution of democracy for us, for other countries it is an extension of democracy. We in Britain have a different attitude towards the law. In Germany and France, legal matters are political..."

Mr Gordon Adam, MEP for Northumbria, is recorded as making a dry comment: "It is not so easy to separate political will and legal issues." The minute adds: "His constituents were more interested in practicalities, such as what would happen to the sheepmeat regime."

The minutes conclude with Mr Benn's stating that the presentation of the strategy must be extended, "but the question of membership of the Community should not be reopened."

Whether the party should fight the next election to the European Parliament in 1984 "was left on the table"; the question would be returned to "if and when it is thought necessary to do so."

Like the argument about the referendum, the question of fighting the European elections will be decided by a party conference to decide. If the decision is not to fight, there is no doubt that the Social Democratic Party will seek to fill the gap; it has already made tentative approaches to socialists in Europe. Much depends on how socialist the SDP policy proves to be when it is settled later this year.



Three men, a mountain and a mystery

Three famous faces of Everest were in London yesterday. Reinhold Messner (left) from the South Tyrol, who climbed the mountain alone in 1980, Professor Noel Odell (right), aged 91, the last man to see Mallory and Irvine alive in 1924, and Captain John Noel (centre), aged 91, photographer on the 1922 and 1924 expeditions, met to talk about their old adversary (Ronald Faux writes).

Reinhold Messner twice climbed Everest without using artificial oxygen, sustained by the historical fact that Noel Odell had spent many days at high altitudes on the mountain in

his tweeds and clinker-nailed boots supporting the early British attempts.

Messner said: "Quite eminent doctors told me that my brain would be damaged by climbing at these altitudes, but when I see Professor Odell I do not worry any more. He is in splendid health." The professor agreed: "Those expeditions never did me any harm. I seemed to thrive on them. Mind you, I did play a lot of rugby football after them."

The mystery of whether Mallory and Irvine reached the summit came perhaps a small step closer to solution. According to Messner, the

question revolves around whether Odell saw them on the first or second "step" that outcrops from the North Ridge. Professor Odell saw the two climbers through breaks in the cloud on the step and outlined against the sky. Messner argued that could only have been on the first step, since the route up the second was hidden from view in a difficult corner. The sighting was at noon, which left too little time for Mallory and Irvine to climb the second step and reach the summit before dark. The balance of probability was that they died after abandoning their attempt.

County may petition against new bridge

From Arthur Osman, Shrewsbury

Proposal in a Bill which Shropshire and Atcham District Council is to introduce in the present parliamentary session for a new road bridge over the River Severn at Shrewsbury and a multi-storey car park were described yesterday as "seriously damaging" for the historic town.

Shropshire County Council is expected to oppose the Bill at a special meeting on Friday so that it can lodge a petition against it on Saturday, the last day it can do so.

Both councils agree that a new multi-storey car park is needed but county council have been advised in a summary of the issues involved that in addition to it being a costly solution "it will arguably be seriously damaging both directly and indirectly to the historic town of Shrewsbury, a nationally important conservation area."

The Bill proposes a bridge and road to enable the car park to be built within the loop of the river by the English Bridge. The county was not consulted before the Bill was drafted.

Some years ago the county supported an abortive scheme which included a footbridge over the river. It said a road bridge would inevitably provide a dangerous conflict with traffic for children using Wakeman comprehensive school, alongside which the new main road would run.

The school would also lose some of its land and its play area would be below the statutory minimum.

"In environmental and tourism terms the Bill could lead to schemes which will have a significant impact on the skyline and river frontage. This is currently being made more intensively residential in character."

"The cost of bridging the river will make inevitable the maximum commercial parking use of land on the town centre side of the river, then accessible by way of the bridge."

"This will have the effect of making irrevocable changes which are hardly likely to improve the environmental qualities of the area — one river frontage has been radically altered on the Smithfield side of the town centre, seriously eroding the aesthetic quality of that side of the town. To do the same to this side could be argued to be highly undesirable."

The county structure plan favoured as a priority a multi-storey car park in the area but last year the council considered parking should be improved as quickly as possible by a joint venture involving public and private interests.

Nurses want strict control of pay beds

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

Tighter control over the growth of private health care has been demanded by the Royal College of Nursing and in an editorial in *The Lancet* as the number of new private beds planned reaches 2,000.

Thirty-five proposed private hospitals are awaiting planning permission. If built they will bring the total number of private beds in England and Wales to 34,000 compared to 455,000 in the National Health Service.

For private hospitals with fewer than 120 beds development permission does not have to be obtained from the Department of Health and Social Security, but the department has to be notified.

The Lancet this week demands a public inquiry into the plan to build a 100-bed private hospital in Southampton opposite Southampton General Hospital, which has been approved by the city's planning committee.

It predicts that the plan will result in competition between the two hospitals for scarce resources of manpower and specialist services, and criticizes the fact that for new private hospitals of fewer than 120 beds the planning authority is required to make its decision solely on planning grounds.

"Even if the health authorities declare that the proposal would be to the detriment of the work of the health service, that opinion, apparently, can have no weight with the planning body. This unsatisfactory situation should be changed."

If the planning committee's decision cannot be instantly reversed then it should at least be subject to a public inquiry.

Increasing pressure from its membership has persuaded the Royal College of Nursing to revise its views on private medicine, which it used to believe should be allowed to expand according to market forces.

It has now become concerned that, with the accelerated growth of the private sector in the wake of government encouragement, the recruitment campaigns by the medical insurance companies, the provision of health care might become polarized.

"Medical insurance is on the whole available only to those in employment; the

Gas search starts off Blackpool

From John Charters, Blackpool

British Gas offshore explorers have started to drill the first of a new series of boreholes in the Morecambe Bay area of the Irish sea, only a few miles from their recently proven gasfield which is expected to deliver 1,800 million cubic feet per day by 1986.

Considerable interest in the £35,000 a day operation is being taken by civic leaders and others concerned with the job hungry and economically deprived north-west region — particularly by those clamouring for more opportunities in the Merseyside area.

The new £25m Singapore-built drilling rig Apollo II is positioned 10 miles off Blackpool Tower with its bays already more than 2,000 feet into the seabed and a fairly confident expectation by the experts aboard, of gas being found in the next few days.

British Gas executives who have been taking parties of journalists to see the rig are retaining the customary caution over making firm predictions, nevertheless they frequently refer to their successful past record in following up predictions made by their geologists and seismologists. British Gas offshore explorers claim a success rate of about one in four for their boreholes compared with a worldwide gas and oil rate of one in 14.

Even if the presence of gas is proved shortly, from number one well in number seven square of block 110 in the Irish Sea, it may be many weeks, or even years before a decision can be made on whether the Morecambe Bay field is worth exploiting commercially.

The drilling off Blackpool is the first part of a programme by British Gas involving use of the rig off the west coast of England during the first half of this year and later others in licensed areas in the English channel and the North Sea.

Although the job prospects from offshore gas projects are relatively tiny in relation to the needs of such areas as Merseyside, west Cumbria and the industrial north-west as a whole, considerable interest is being taken because of the ripple effect for small companies able to provide technical and supply services.

Butter sales fall by fifth in two years

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

Average weekly consumption of butter in Britain has fallen by a fifth in the last two years, a survey published today shows.

The figures, for the third quarter of last year, predate the recent controversial newspaper advertising campaign which may have succeeded in halting or reversing the growing preference for margarine. But they are bound to cause further gloom in the dairy industry, which is faced with declining markets for both liquid milk and butter at a time of ever increasing EEC surpluses.

Sales seem certain to fall still further if the latest farm price proposal by the European Commission are implemented. The proposed increases would mean a rise

in butter prices of about 8p a pound, it is estimated.

Moreover, there is growing opposition among EEC governments to the special differential subsidy paid to British butter consumers, at present worth about 13p a pound. Mr Bjorn Westh, the Danish Agriculture Minister, said yesterday in Copenhagen that his government was anxious to see it phased out.

The subsidy was originally imposed to help to dispose of the so-called butter mountain, and reflected Britain's importance as the Community's main import market.

Officially the mountain no longer exists, although there were dark hints from Mr Paul Delage, the EEC Agriculture commissioner, in Berlin recently about what

might happen if the United States was forced to dispose of its dairy surpluses on world markets.

Consumption of eggs, sugar, beef, potatoes, white bread and coffee was also lower in the third quarter of 1981 than the average for 1979. But people were eating more cheese, lamb, pork, green vegetables, fresh fruit and brown bread.

Checkout queues upset shoppers

More than one in five customers have serious complaints about the shops they use, according to a survey published today by the National Consumer Council (Robin Young writes).

Long checkout queues at supermarkets were the largest cause of complaint, followed by poor standards of service. Shoppers grumbled about cheery, condescending and generally unhelpful shop assistants.

A third of those in the survey thought prices for necessities were unreasonable, and one in ten claimed to have been obliged to cut down on spending on food.

Though a high proportion of people felt they had bought unsatisfactory goods, only 3 per cent said they felt they needed more information or advice on shopping or their rights. Even of those who did feel they needed advice, only half had obtained it.

Secrecy dilemma for authors

Bird books help thieves to rob rare nests

By David Nicholson-Lord

Respected conservationists may be making the task of birds' egg collectors and nest robbers simpler by their readiness to publish information about breeding and nesting grounds.

Despite increasing efforts to enforce secrecy, details given in many newly published wildlife books continue to direct human predators towards the nests of protected birds.

Examples include the golden eagle, peregrine falcon, greenback, dotted and chough, all of which have been considered sufficiently threatened to be placed on Schedule 1 of the new Wildlife and Countryside Act. Under Section 1 of the act penalties are imposed even for disturbing such birds, while they are nest-building.

But concern about publication of sensitive sites extends to other forms of animal and plant life protected by law. The dilemma, successful conservation versus public interest and the right to know, is at its acutest over birds because of the sharp rise in popularity of ornithology as a hobby. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, for instance, has 450,000 members.

Examples cited by critics range from cheaper books to works of reference which, the RSPB acknowledges, however inadvertently the information is given, form an important weapon in the egg collector's armoury.

Dr Derek Ratcliffe, chief



Golden eagle: Act says 'Do not disturb'.



Peregrine falcon: Coastal haunts revealed.

scientist at the Nature Conservancy Council, in a work published in 1980 speaks of the popularity of Lake District sites with the peregrine falcon and adds: "One day has up to four pairs nesting within its catchment."

He also describes a headland in the only coastal nesting station in the North-west, and in the South-west, where peregrine populations have recovered considerably in the last decade, they are said to have spread down the Cornish Atlantic coast from the Devon border and to have reoccupied coastal haunts in Somerset, several of which have been named previously.

A book about greenbacks by one of Britain's best known and most respected ornithologists, includes a list of breeding grounds, listing individual lochs, glens,

moors and mountains in Scotland.

Specialist maps point to inland and coastal sites for little and roseate terns, both schedule 1 species. They were apparently based on data supplied by a senior RSPB official before he joined the society.

A review by the Nature Conservancy Council goes further, listing 735 sites of scientific interest where protected species can be found, and also supplying Ordnance Survey grid references. Although the locations of the very rarest birds and plants are not disclosed, map references are nevertheless given for sites, often only a few score acres in size, where schedule 1 species such as Savi's warbler, choughs, bitterns and marsh and Montagu's harrier can be found.

Tables in the review show that a "substantial proportion, probably approaching 50 per cent" of the total populations of honey buzzards, marsh harriers, black-backed gulls, bitterns, garganey and dotterel are on the sites listed. Total populations of the first two species is put at fewer than nine pairs and of the others fewer than 99 pairs.

Some published references may appear, to the layman, to be sufficiently imprecise. But conservationists acknowledge that many collectors have a command of fieldcraft and tracking of birds far exceeds that of ordinary ornithologists.

Collectors are said to have swum naked across lochs clutching eggs in their mouths, scaled precipitous crags with ropes and climbing irons and used fireworks to flush out cliff-nesting species like choughs. One method of locating a nightjar's eggs is for two men to drag a rope across a heath to startle the bird into the air.

The RSPB is also seriously concerned by what it describes as a frightening increase in the number of collectors. The society knows of some 900 active collectors but believes there are many more. Last year more than 1,000 incidents were reported to its small investigations unit but successful prosecutions remain difficult and relatively few.

The potential for disturbance is also being increased by the expanding armies of "tickers" and "twitters",

birdwatchers with checklists and a mania for rarities.

The dilemma of how much information to disclose dates back at least twenty years to the Loch Garten ospreys, robbed despite an RSPB guard after initial publicity, but shows every sign of becoming a recurring theme. The RSPB has itself been criticized, notably over advertisements from guest houses in its magazine, *Birds*, extolling the delights of red kite or golden eagle country and giving addresses.

The society says it checks them carefully and also tries to screen other forthcoming publications. Recently, it says, it stopped the Scottish Tourist Board bringing out a detailed viewing map for rare birds. Checking for series like the *British Birds* reports is done by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel.

One persistent critic of the RSPB on this issue is Mr Eric Hardy, the well-known North Country naturalist and writer, who resigned from the society because, he says, it numbered too many collectors among its members.

Mr Hardy, who has received criticism for disclosing sites in newspaper columns, argues that prospective members should be asked to state that they are not collectors and believe that double standards operate, for the "privileged" and the general public. Agreements on non-disclosure should apply to books and scientific journals as well as newspapers, he says.

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Poland: Culture in crisis

Artistic community plans subversion by stealth

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Jan 31

Other people may reach for their guns when the word "culture" is mentioned, but Poland's Military Council is still deliberating on whether a hammer or a feather duster is the more appropriate instrument for dealing with the country's unruly actors, writers and artists.

Should it allow Poland's cultural establishment to retain its traditional independence — even if that means putting up with politically critical work? Or should it crack down now before matters get out of hand?

The results of this vacillation is a corresponding uncertainty among the artistic community: the first instinctive response, of course, was to condemn martial law out of hand; the latest critical petition was signed by 120 writers and artists, including Andrzej Wajda, the film director responsible for such films as *Man of Marble* and *Man of Iron*, which describe the roots of popular protest in postwar Poland.

Dozens of actors claim to have handed in their party cards and there is an informal boycott of television appearances.

But as the weeks of martial law become months, so the cultural establishment is realizing that a less forthright approach might be in order: subversion by artistic stealth.

If anything, this view was reinforced by the recent speech of General Wojciech Jaruzelski, head of the Military Council, whose endorsement of cultural affairs emphasized the need to bring art closer to the people. That may be disturbing news for abstract painters, but figurative painters, film directors and writers should be able to ensure that the last rehearsal was acceptable.

Now the directors can take few risks. One offensive or politically ambiguous remark in a play could spell the end of the production before it even begins. Thus the Director of Mrozek's play *Police* about political freedom had to play it as a farce rather than as a satire to get it past the authorities. It is up to the audience to grasp the real unstated message.

Even so, nine plays have been withdrawn (perhaps only temporarily) from the Warsaw repertoire.

Some films have also been put on ice. It is understood for example that a planned film starring Krystyna Janda (the heroine of Wajda's films) tentatively called *The Interrogation* has been suspended.

The key to artistic resistance to martial law restrictions is Wajda, probably the Polish artist with the widest international following and respect. Wajda knows that the community has great expectations of him, and that has made him all the more reluctant to sign petitions or campaign vociferously against intervention.

He sees himself as a filmmaker who has, admittedly, dealt with politically sensitive subjects in the past. If he were to become an active political campaigner, he would not much be gained but his film-making would lose. He wants to carry on living and working in Poland; that at any rate is what one of his friends has to say. Wajda himself has been reluctant to speak to Westerners in Poland.

Without a central figure to rally around, the artistic community will no doubt get on with doing what they can within the limits of the system and hope for a relaxation. Certainly some musicians and dancers are being allowed to travel to the West. This is greeted with relief, for passport controls are currently extremely strict and defections are a real possibility.

But the most enduring question is how the Military Council and the party will shift the overall policy towards the cultural establishment.

Film highlights US protest

By Our Foreign Staff



The Pope speaking yesterday on Poland.

A weekend of international protest at the military takeover in Poland culminated last night in a television extravaganza featuring Western political leaders and entertainment personalities.

President Reagan, Mrs Thatcher, Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, Mitterrand and Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Japanese Prime Minister, took part in the 90 minute recording which was transmitted from the United States by satellite to 50 countries.

Called *Let Poland be Poland*, it drew a barrage of invective from its two targets, the authorities in Warsaw and Moscow. Tass said it was "a cheap show in the best Hollywood tradition", while Polish newspapers called it "a tragicomic farce".

Britain did not show the programme and only four Western countries, Australia, Norway, Luxembourg and Belgium, contracted to do so live.

Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Charlton Heston, Errol Flynn, Kirk Douglas, Glenda Jackson, Joanne Woodward and the Swedish singing group Abba, took part with the political leaders. Abba is popular in the Soviet Union and the trade union newspaper *Pravda* said it was saddened to see that the group was "under the orders of Reagan, Thatcher and certain Nato governments".

In a brief, parting message for the programme, Mrs Thatcher said that the flame of freedom in Poland would not be extinguished by the imposition of martial law. "In Poland today the flame of freedom may seem to burn less brightly," she said.

"But it has not been extinguished, nor can it be. Sooner or later the oppressors will understand that they cannot impose their will upon men and women who ask only that Poland may truly represent the indomitable spirit of the Polish people."

In Rome, yesterday the Pope supported the Polish bishops in their call for an end to martial law and said that civil rights had to be defended in every walk of life.

Speaking to pilgrims gathered in St Peter's Square for the Sunday blessing, he thanked everyone who took part on Saturday in demonstrations against the suspension by the Polish martial law authorities of the independent trade union Solidarity.

In Britain, Mr Len Murray, the TUC leader, called for the immediate release of all trade unionists detained in Poland.

Libya link in Dozier kidnap plot

From John Earle, Rome, Jan 31

Magistrates investigating the Red Brigate kidnapping of Brigadier-General James Dozier believe one of his five arrested captors may have received training in Libya.

Signor Giovanni Cuccia, injured when police freed General Dozier from a flat in Padua on Thursday, is a 32-year-old ex-employee of the state railways in Pisa. He is said to have resigned from his job last June and to have obtained a visa for Libya, where he spent several months.

Police say two of the others, Signor Antonio Savasta, aged 27, and his woman friend Signorina Emanuela Libera, aged 26, will also face charges relating to the kidnapping and killing last May of Giuseppe Talicio, manager of the Montedison company petrochemical plant near Venice.

Talicio's murder was only one of a series of killings by terrorists in the Veneto in recent years. Including General Dozier's captors, police are known to have arrested at least 23 people in the Veneto since Thursday.

The police are reported to have been surprised by the fact that the *Brigatisti* guarding the general spoke little English. Presumably they were more interested in the dramatic effect of seizing — and the authorities believe, subsequently killing — an American general, than in extracting military secrets.

General Dozier appears to have recovered completely from his 42-day ordeal.

General Dozier yesterday joined 180 people in a Protestant service to thank and praise God for sparing his life (AP reports).

News Analysis

Haig under fire from the right

From Nicholson Ashford, Washington, Jan 31

It is a paradox of the political game in Washington that, just when Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, finally seemed to have consolidated his position as America's foreign policy leader, his standing within the Administration is again beginning to look vulnerable.

Until a week or so ago the conventional wisdom in Washington was that Mr Haig, after months of skirmishing with his rivals in the White House and elsewhere in the Administration, was at last secure. "The Vicar" (as Mr Haig is known in the State Department) had finally made it to the altar, one official commented.

His arch-opponent, Mr Richard Allen, had been unceremoniously ousted from his post as National Security Adviser, and replaced by Mr William Clark, who was Mr Haig's former deputy. He was one of the few members of President Reagan's "California Set" to like and respect the volatile Secretary of State, and even dissatisfied Mr Haig from resigning on at least one occasion.

Mr Allen's departure also coincided with the apparent decline in influence of Mr Edwin Meese, the President's Counsellor, who harboured ambitions to have a controlling influence over the conduct of American foreign policy.

At the same time Mr Haig had strengthened his position in the State Department by promoting two trusted career diplomats to top positions.

Mr Walter Stoessel, three times an ambassador and a foreign service officer for 40 years, is expected to become Deputy Secretary of State, a post which has never been held by a career diplomat before. Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, who served in Europe while Mr Haig was Nato Commander, is to take over Mr Stoessel's old job.

Mr Haig also scored a number of foreign policy successes, such as persuading the President to agree to talks on reducing medium-range missiles in Europe, and not allowing Taiwan to jeopardise United States relations with China.

However, there has recently been a deluge of conservative attacks on Mr Haig, and in particular on the Administration's policy towards the Polish crisis. Mr Haig is being accused of being too soft and too pragmatic in his response to the Soviet Union, and of paying too much heed to the concerns of the United States' European allies.

Even Liberal newspapers, such as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, normally among his most staunch supporters, have carried articles suggesting that he is becoming politically and ideologically isolated from the rest of the Administration.

Mr Haig's growing band of right-wing critics have found an important (if somewhat surprising) ally in Dr Henry Kissinger, Mr Haig's former boss and political mentor. He wrote two articles in the *New York Times* (published also in *The Times*) earlier this month strongly attacking the Administration's handling of the Polish crisis.

The criticisms being levelled at Mr Haig are personal, political and ideological. His bluff, somewhat abrasive, style often causes offence, as does his barely disguised ambition to run for President one day, despite his almost total lack of a political base.

Furthermore, Mr Haig's opponents can point to a number of areas where they believe American policy to be wanting. The Soviet Union has effectively intervened in Poland, and has not been deterred by American sanctions. Yet, despite Mr Haig's determination to preserve Western unity over Poland, the Nato alliance is more strained.

In Central America, the critics say, Cuban-backed guerrillas are continuing to make headway because the Administration's bark has not been accompanied by any bite.

Significantly, what was regarded as one of Mr Haig's new sources of strength and influence — the transfer of Mr Clark to run an upgraded National Security Council — is now being seen as his potential Achilles heel.

Mr Clark knows little about foreign policy, but he has the same political and ideological beliefs as the President, of whom he is an old friend and associate. It is now being suggested that Mr Clark, while not deliberately trying to undermine Mr Haig, will encourage the President to follow his own right-wing instincts in his future dealings with the Soviet Union over Poland.

The decision to reduce to one day Mr Haig's meeting with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, last week, and not to set a date for beginning strategic arms talks, is understood to have been inspired by Mr Clark.



Food price increases in Poland

Farmers in France on offensive

From Jonathan Feinby, Paris, Jan 31

French farmers, always quick to leap to their own defence, are fighting on four fronts to ensure that their earnings in 1982 do not fall victim to the British Government, Italian wine producers, Spanish vegetable growers or the European Commission.

After six months in which cheap Italian wine imports were the most explosive subject on the French agricultural scene, Britain has taken over in the past week as the main bogey of the country's 700,000 farmers.

The failure of the European Community nations to agree an agricultural budget is blamed squarely on what the French young farmers' organisation called "British exorbitant pretensions". The 5 per cent increase in farm food prices proposed by the EEC Commission last week came in for an equally harsh reception, being described variously as scandalous and stupefying.

At Francis Guillaume, the president of the main farmers' federation, is due to see President Mitterrand on Tuesday to put his members' case for a 16 per cent increase in revenue this year.

Wine-growers on the Mediterranean coast in the south-west were out in force at the end of last week. Their target was Italian wine imports, which sell at prices that French growers cannot match, and which have been resumed, after a lull in the Autumn.

After a rally of 1,500 growers in Bordeaux on Friday, Agriculture Ministry officials agreed to block imports of Italian wine until their prices rose to French levels.

The wine-growers have been joined in their militancy by fruit and vegetable producers in the south-west who are worried about cheap Spanish imports.

Israel accepts Sinai peacekeeping force

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Jan 31

The Israeli Cabinet today finally approved the participation of British, French, Italian and Indian troops in the multinational force to police Sinai after the Israelis complete their withdrawal in April.

The force of 2,500 from 11 countries would also include Australian and New Zealand troops. The Americans, who undertook to organize the force when the United Nations refused, will provide half the troops. Norway will supply the commander. Other participants will be Colombia, Uruguay and Fiji.

The Israelis had opposed the involvement of the four European countries after their governments last year coupled the announcement of their participation with statements of support for the EEC's Venice Declaration, which supports a separate Palestinian State. The Israelis were particularly upset by Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, implying Britain was joining to make sure Arab lands were returned to the Arabs.

The Americans tried to soften the impact by issuing a joint statement with the Israelis affirming that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty was the sole basis for the force. The Israelis demanded the Europeans endorse it. Replies reached Jerusalem in January but Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, was not satisfied.

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, obtained further clarification from the Europeans and the Israelis said they were now satisfied.

The Cabinet also discussed the weekend capture of three Al-Fatah terrorists from Jordan. Two other infiltrators were killed in the incident, which was followed by a dramatic Saturday night press conference.

Beirut Syria was reported here to have proposed a three-point peace plan for the Middle East that calls for an end of the state of war with Israel (AP reports).

The plan was set down by Mr Ahmed Iskandar Ahmad, the Syrian Minister of Information, in an interview with the Lebanese weekly magazine *Monday Morning*.

Syrian arrests: Syrian authorities have rounded up about 500 dissidents and executed 30 to 50 officers. A plot to overthrow the Government of President Hafez Assad, Western Intelligence and Arab sources said.

Protesters clash in Frankfurt

The Citizens' Action Group said that more than 100 demonstrators were hurt on Saturday and between 12 and 15 the Americans, who undertook to organize the force when the United Nations refused, will provide half the troops. Norway will supply the commander. Other participants will be Colombia, Uruguay and Fiji.

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SAUDIS KEEN TO BUY MORE ARMS

Riyadh, Jan 31. — Saudi Arabia is buying naval weapons from France and is in the market for advanced military hardware "from friendly industrialized nations", Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, the Saudi Defence Minister, said today.

M. Charles Hernu, the French Defence Minister, signed an agreement today to enlarge and set up training facilities for the Saudi navy, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

France already has a 14,500-ton frigate (about 11,700 tons) on contract to equip the Saudi navy with missile firing frigates, supply ships, coastal defence installations and helicopters for naval warfare.

Saudi Arabia has a navy of 2,200 men to guard more than 2,250 miles of coast on the Red Sea and the Gulf, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies. — AP and Reuters

How CIA wooed Bani-Sadr

Washington, Jan 31. — CIA agents tried and failed to recruit Mr Abolmossann Bani-Sadr as an informant before he became President of the revolutionary Government of Iran, according to an account published in Sunday editions of *The Washington Post*. The account was based on classified documents seized from the American Embassy in Tehran and published there.

Mr Bani-Sadr, now in exile in France, confirmed that an attempt was made to recruit him as a consultant to an American firm, Carver Associates of Philadelphia, but he declined what he recalled as an offer of \$5,000 (£2,600) a month, the newspaper said. The documents put the figure at \$1,000 a month.

The disclosure of the discussions with Mr Bani-Sadr was published a day after the *Boston Globe*, citing the same set of documents, said that an American diplomat, only four days before the takeover of the United States Embassy, had relayed pleas from a friendly Iranian official to get the Shah out of the United States.

In Sunday editions, the *Boston Globe* quoted a September, 1979, warning to Washington from Mr William Sullivan, Ambassador in Iran, that the Shah's crackdown on corruption at that time could cost the embassy sources within the ruling family.

The recruiter was identified in *The Washington Post* account as Mr Vernon Cassin, now retired from the CIA, who was known to Carver Associates as Guy Rutherford. Mr Cassin was said to be using the name of William Foster in Tehran in 1979. Carver Associates, a consulting firm, was providing cover for Mr Cassin, *The Washington Post* said.

A report cabled to CIA headquarters by Mr Thomas Ahern, in charge of the Tehran station, after the first approach to Mr Bani-Sadr in August, 1979, said: "There may be an opening to obtain subject's cooperation."

Mr Cassin, who met Mr Bani-Sadr in Paris in January, 1979, had three meetings with him in August and September, 1979, and did not seem to have elicited much that was not available in the press at the time, the newspaper said.

Mr Cassin had suggested that an attempt be made to stay in touch with Mr Bani-Sadr after he dropped the project, either through an associate from Carver Associates or someone from the embassy. Mr Bani-Sadr is said to have told friends he thought Mr Cassin was "just an American businessman rather clumsily attempting to establish an inside track in Iran".

Commentary in Persian accompanying the documents says the students who seized the embassy learned that the CIA officer had been known to Bani-Sadr accepted the CIA offer but never got any money because the embassy takeover ended contact with him, the *Post* said. That assertion was not supported by the documents, the newspaper added.

Ayatollah Khomeini ordered the students to keep their documents and commentary secret until last year, when Mr Bani-Sadr's opponents used them in Parliament. After that, they were published and Mr Bani-Sadr was forced to flee the country.

The *Globe* said American officials from 1966 on worried about financial corruption among the Shah's relatives and his penchant for inappropriate heavy arms. The story quoted from a 1976 CIA report that there were "an assortment of licentious and financially corrupt relatives" of the Shah.

The *Globe* also reported that Mr Parsa Kia, chief of the American desk at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, pleaded with embassy officials to oust the Shah from the United States, where he had gone for medical treatment.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Prisoners 'volunteer' for Golan

Tehran — Iran has decided to form a battalion of volunteers from Iraqi prisoners of war to oppose Israel, Tehran radio said.

The broadcast quoted Ayatollah Khomeini's representative on the Supreme Defence Council as saying that the force would be known as the Golan Battalion. The Golan Heights in Syria were annexed by Israel in December.

"There have been a lot of requests from Iraqi prisoners of war. They want to be given the chance to make up for their past mistakes and fight blasphemy," the representative said. "We thought tonight to allow the third staff command to form a battalion of the Iraqi volunteers and have the battalion prepared for dispatch to the border with Israel."

Mafia suspect held in Rome

Rome. — Signor Enzo Coppola, who is 33 and alleged to be a Mafia leader, was arrested while undergoing treatment in a private clinic here police said.

They also said that Signor Coppola was likely to face charges of drug and arms trafficking in connection with a booming trade in heroin between Sicily and the United States. On medical advice, he was not taken to prison but placed under police guard at the clinic.

Film award for Dudley Moore

Los Angeles. — Dudley Moore, who was voted best comedy actor for his role in *Arthur*, at Golden Globe awards here. Sir John Gielgud was the best supporting actor award and the film also took the awards for best comedy and best song.

Meryl Streep won the best dramatic actress award for her role in *The French Lieutenant's Women*, and Bérénice Peters was chosen best comedy actress for her performance in *Pennies From Heaven*.

Americans move out

Bangkok. — About 20 women and children, who are American dependents, have been evacuated from the northern city of Chiang Mai after Thai forces clashed with an opium warlord in the so-called golden triangle. United States consular spokesman said.

Two die in blast

Beirut. — Two Palestinians were killed when a car bomb exploded today in the southern Lebanese town of Sidon, security sources said. Another Palestinian in the car was seriously injured.

Body identified

Cambridge. — Mr Stephen May has officially identified one of two bodies found near here as that of his wife, Jeannette, justice officials said. Dental records from London, confirmed the identification.

Rebels killed

Manila. — Thirteen Communist rebels have been killed in a clash with government security forces in Zamboanga del Norte province.

Prisoners 'volunteer' for Golan

Tehran — Iran has announced that it has formed a battalion of volunteers from Iranian prisoners of war to fight in the Golan Heights. The broadcast quoted a spokesman as saying that the volunteers would be sent to the Golan Heights in Syria, which is occupied by Israel in the

Mafia suspect held in Rome

Rome — A Sicilian Mafia boss, who is believed to be a Mafioso, has been arrested while on a visit to Rome. He is believed to be a Mafioso, and is believed to be a Mafioso. He is believed to be a Mafioso, and is believed to be a Mafioso.

Film award to Dudley Moore

Dudley Moore has been awarded the Best Actor award for his performance in the film 'Shogun'.

Americans move to die in blast

Americans have been moved to a safe area after a blast in a city.

Is identified

A person has been identified as the person who was involved in a case.

ets killed

Several people have been killed in a case.

i-Sadr

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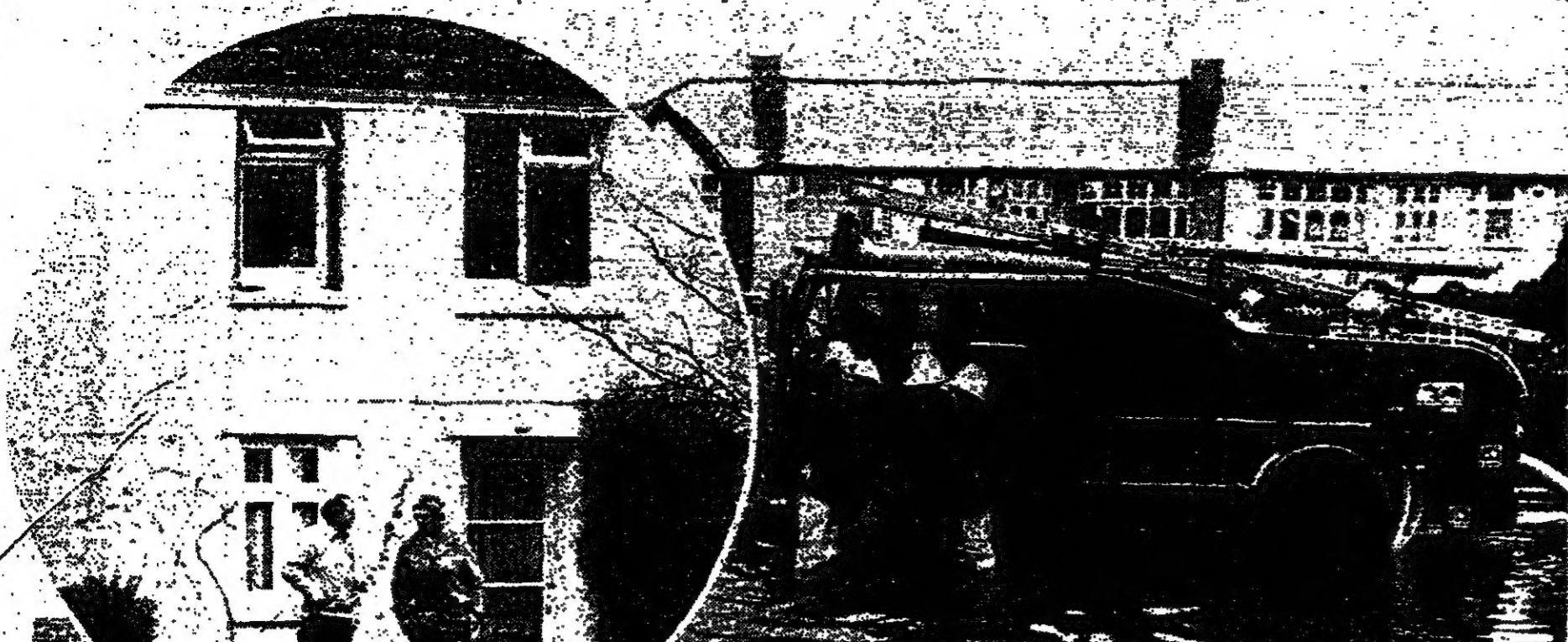
Several people have been killed in a case.

i-Sadr

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ets killed

Several people have been killed in a case.



While others were assessing the damage, we were paying for it.



On the morning of January 11th 1978, you might have been forgiven for mistaking the streets of Sheerness for Amsterdam or Venice.

After a night of near hurricane force winds and waves as high as houses, the East Kent coastline was quite simply blown to bits.

In the light of this thirty-mile trail of devastation, it became clear to us at Commercial Union that there was only one way we could be of real help.

Not with tea and sympathy. Or vague promises of compensation.

But rather, by agreeing to claims immediately. On the spot.

Now, it's not every day you'll find us popping in on policyholders, with a view to popping a cheque in the post.

After all, like any other insurance company, every claim we deal with involves certain formalities.

There are details to be noted down. Policies to be checked

out. Assessments to be made. And so on.

A process that can take anything from five minutes to five months. Or even longer.

Speaking for ourselves, we prefer to simplify the paperwork, for the sake of a speedy settlement.

Which is precisely how we coped with the mopping up of East Kent.

On January 12th, with the storm damage barely a day old, we set up an emergency claims centre in Canterbury.

Within two working days we had our own team of claims inspectors out and about on the waterways, personally totting up the cost of repairs.

In all, we paid out £115,000 from just one branch, to more than 400 policyholders.

So they could start rebuilding their lives, while others were still getting estimates.

We won't make a drama out of a crisis.

We've been baling people out all over the country, just recently.

Since the start of the thaw the claims have been flooding in by the thousand.

Of course, we're still wading through the paperwork.

But we like to think we're coping quicker than most.

You see, we don't mind getting our feet wet. Even at weekends.

In Cardiff, for example, we opened specially on Sunday.

In Bristol, we've already made interim payments to several hundred policyholders.

In Liverpool, we've authorised our local inspectors in the worst affected areas to settle straightforward claims, on the spot.

That's the story so far. And it's absolutely watertight.

We won't make a drama out of a crisis.



Four years on, our claim still holds water.

Strasbourg attacks brushed off by Turks

**From Our Correspondent
Ankara, Jan 31**

Ghana's holy war Rawlings sticks to his guns

From Godfrey Morrison, Accra, Jan 31.

The PNDC's power rests ultimately on the armed forces. The coup was by no means bloodless, and involved fighting between army units which, reliable sources

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Jan 31

Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, made it clear in Torremolinos

The Cabinet discussed the
defection on Friday and a
majority of those present
apparently backed the
ment must find support from
among the other groups
making up the rest of the
350-seat lower house.

**Turkey downgrading its
diplomatic relations with the
Council of Europe.**


**From David Watts
Manila, Jan 31**

Reagan's visit here in June. Señor Calvo Sotelo's strongest help comes from the Socialists, who do not want a general election now. To survive, the Government must find support from among the other groups making up the rest of the 350-seat lower house.

tramping round publishers in 1974 with his idea for a critical study pitched midway

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a group of people. In the center, a man in a dark jacket holds a camera. To his left, a woman in a light-colored jacket is visible. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost stencil-like appearance.

A greater public accessibility: the Queen at the Royal Windsor Horse Show



has signalled
to the divorce

subtly that the parties
have been forgiven.

ult of the Virgin Mary with
e Reformation, and we
uggle it back in the form
Elizabeth II."

Alan Hamilton

The Queen with her first grandson, Peter, son of Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips. She takes her responsibilities at the centre of a very public and therefore highly influential family very seriously. Now, however, she is visibly more relaxed — her son is safely married with an heir on the way and her sometimes difficult sister seems to have sailed into calmer waters. About the divorce, she has been both understanding and astute and has signalled subtly that the parties to the divorce have been forgiven.

Alan Hamilton

THE ARTS

Opera
Flexible
charms

Opera 80

Northcott Theatre,
Exeter

Opera 80 have pulled out a real bag of tricks this time. With Ali Songo as magical consultant, Stephen Lawless has conjured up a solution to the problem of staging the central act of their new production of *Die Fledermaus* perfectly suited to the needs of this small theatre. The touring company, who will play in the small spaces of 16 more provincial venues over the next nine weeks.

Gone is the crowded ballroom of a confectioner's shop, replaced by a simple, detailed dinner party, with a few guests, including the girls, the girls' screaming exit at the arrival of Claudio's wedding party, and Dogberry was still making a meal of his malapropisms. What had changed was the atmosphere. Words like "cool" and "auster" no longer applied. The house had warmed up, and Gill's use of varying stage depths for changes in focus between grand-scale conflict and direct address had taken on the natural rhythm of a breathing lung. It was if the company were sharing the work with a few friends, indicating its dark side without tearing the comedy apart, and

Since there is no Frankie Howard to help out with the last act, Michael McLean's lovable night-porter of a Froch bows to the drunken recollections in a delightful dumb-show monologue by Eric Roberts as a strongly projected character. Just as vocally assured and coherently characterized are Stewart Buchanan's suave Falke and Michael Bulman's Eisenstein, though chief honours go to the women: Gillian Sullivan so intelligent and enchanting as Adele that I wish we could have seen more of her, and Catherine McCord as a radiant, versatile Rosalinde.

It is the company's wise policy to exchange principals and chorus between their two productions. Miss McCord surfaced from the chorus of Stewart Trotter's *Figaro* the night before, in which William Mann, two years ago, had hoped she might play the Countess. In a production in which both Marcelline's role and the restless comic business have expanded, and the vocal strength, alas, generally diminished, Elizabeth Brice takes on the part as a scarcely credible pantomime dame, epitomizing the shallow investigation of her relationship with the Count, the deaf ear turned to their music. Mozart tells us that his asking for pardon is of a quite different nature from Eisenstein's; but here the audience's laughter drowned even that exquisite moment.

Eric Roberts is less at home in his Count's costume. Delith Brook, a winsome but yesterday's project, Susan to Neil Jansen's Figaro. Thank goodness for the musicianship and stage sense of Elise Ross, new to the company, whose Cherubino, no less than her beguiling Olofsson, had absorbed the music deeply enough to radiate the part with both sensitivity and aplomb.

Hilary Finch

● The Allegri Quartet is to perform all Beethoven's string quartets in the course of six weekly concerts, every Thursday from February 11, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Monteverdi Choir
and Orchestra/
Gardiner

Festival Hall

For Mozart's birthday, John Eliot Gardiner's coupling of the C minor Mass and the *Requiem*, with his Monteverdi Choir, and Orchestra, was a tidy but still offering. As a coupling, I must aver, not without fear of hubris, that it may have been too much of a good thing.

Between his two greatest, incomplete Masses Mozart's musical thinking altered radically, and of course the music changed likewise. But in both works, as in all his sacred music, he was wearing, so to speak, his church mite. Worthy as he was to put one on, it caused him to compose in a character almost irrelevant to his own musical personality, so rooted are the stylistic premises of his church music in the baroque manner of his predecessors.

If Friday's concert set others thinking afresh about the two works, then the coupling was worthwhile. But neither work seemed to me as pungently interpreted by Gardiner and his colleagues as could be expected from this excellent complex of musicians. They all gave an impression of anxious eagerness, rather than the adrenalin-inspired excitement of performing great music in the Festival Hall.

Both performances were decent. Gardiner made sure that pulses were lively and that double chorus balanced neatly, unoppressively, with orchestra, even in fugues; choral lines were always firm and clear. He omitted the plainsong intonations, a mistake which they set a section in proper balance: a *Gloria* or *Credo* is like a rickety stool without them.

The soloists were sensibly chosen. Stafford Dean reliable and sensitive on the bass line (he sings too seldom in London), Isabel Buchanan more variable in technique, though musical; Diana Montague and Linda Finnie gave assured, even more the flexible *spinto* sound of the tenor Laurence Dale.

William Mann

Wren Orchestra/
Thomas

Queen Elizabeth Hall

With her golden flute and her forthright personality, and the election of one of her recent tracks — as Friday's programme-book told us — as signature tune for *Women's Hour*, Elena Duran seemed set fair to be her sex's answer to Jimmy Galtway. In the event, it did not turn out quite like that.

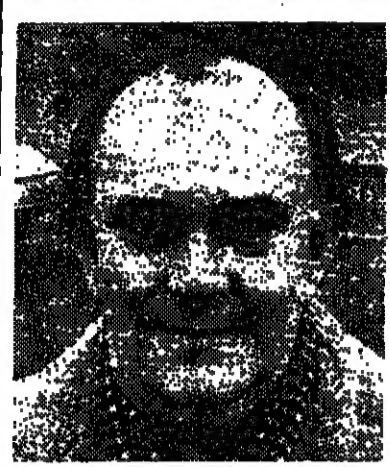
The tradition of the First Night is by no means as loved and respected as many suppose.

Irving Wardle puts the theatre critic's point of view

Opening ceremonies

Last month I had a call from Peter Gill asking me to have another look at his production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. He was not happy about the original reviews, particularly those that bewailed the lack of a POV (Point of View), and said the performance had come on so much that he now considered it the best piece of work he had done at the National Theatre.

As one of those who joined in last August's guarded chorus, I accepted the invitation and went to see the show again. In outline it was exactly what I remembered: a clean, well-proportioned reading on a stage as bare as a runway. It did not seem to have gathered much new business (apart from the girls' screaming exit at the arrival of Claudio's wedding party), and Dogberry was still making a meal of his malapropisms. What had changed was the atmosphere. Words like "cool" and "auster" no longer applied. The house had warmed up, and Gill's use of varying stage depths for changes in focus between grand-scale conflict and direct address had taken on the natural rhythm of a breathing lung. It was if the company were sharing the work with a few friends, indicating its dark side without tearing the comedy apart, and



Alan Ayckbourn: chuckle-count

giving a wonderfully free run to the two principals. I have never enjoyed the play more.

This is not a review. If it were, I would have to explain the enjoyment and maybe end up by qualifying it. But the real question is how far the performance itself has changed, and how much it was originally undervalued as a result of the first night routine. It is often said that reviewers get things wrong because they see work under artificial conditions. As their presence helps to create those conditions, some degree of artificiality is inescapable. But even more artificial is the practice of judging a production on the experience of one single night, the first or the fiftieth.

It has its own life-span, growing and changing with time, and according to a director like Jonathan Miller, the most interesting changes have usually happened before the public arrive. To do full justice to any show, whether a comedy-thriller or an uncut *Hamlet*, would take a book rather than a few hundred words.

As that is not going to happen, there is something to be said for the first night as a moment when rehearsal exercises come together in what Peter Brook calls the Grand Exercise. A production is not an athletic event, but if it has to be tested on a single performance you might as well pick one when the company are most likely to be on form. Joan Littlewood, who ignored the existence of first nights, would deny that; and many actors would qualify it. Alec McCowen, for instance, says that first nights are always bad in comedy — "Especially if you've had a good preview. You keep trying to imitate it and listening for the laughs. Not as good as last night, you think, and you start pushing. Like we did in *Tishoo*."

Comedy is often an ordeal for the reviewer as well, sitting stone-faced among ranks of bored teeth and wondering why he is too feeble for the breakfast table should be going down so well with the paying customers. One answer, of course, is that some of them have not paid. Managements may have given up the old custom of budgeting for paid laughter, but there is still plenty of laughter from people helping their friends along, and reviewers have to decide how much of it is genuine, and how far they should acknowledge an audience reaction that contradicts their own. It takes some arrogance to quibble about the structural imperfections of a show that has had people falling off their seats. Go too far in the other direction, and you join forces with the Broadway statistician whom Alan Ayckbourn saw solemnly listing every titter, chuckle, and deep rich belly laugh, and then adding them all up.

Such examples come mostly from the commercial theatre, to which the first night owes its image of chauffeur-driven cars blocking narrow streets, snatch-photographers on the door and interval voices braying for pre-ordered drinks. It is not as bad as it used to be in the 1950s when getting into the "Haymarket Play" was like gate-crashing Ascot and it usually turned out that the more trivial the entertainment the more stifling the surrounding Newmarket. Nowadays, the furs and dinner-jackets are less thick on the ground, and the star-worship less hysterical.

Toby Rowland, the head of the powerful Stoll group, declares himself in favour of this change. "In the case of a big star, the agents start demanding tickets, which we try to discourage. We want to get the general public in, they're the ones who are going to see the show." Sometimes this is easier said than done. Reviewers form only one fraction of the first night allocation: seats also go out to the company, the producing management, the theatre owner, and with a large-cast musical it can easily happen that the show opens without a single member of the general public in the house.

Until the Arts Council and the GLC acquire the first night habit, subsidized theatres escape this kind of scrum. At the National Theatre, first-night houses are papered only with the press and people in the building who have worked on the production. Board members and educational representatives get their turn at a guest preview. The Royal Shakespeare Company some years ago began a campaign to deglamorize first nights by cutting down the complimentary list and aiming at the atmosphere of a normal performance in which the actors could show their wares properly. At the Aldwych, this was coupled with a reduction in prices for previews and first nights; and from next month Stratford will be brought into line with this policy. I pass over the possibility that this change may have something to do with last year's audience figures, and move on to another



Michael Gambon and Penelope Wilton in Peter Gill's production of "Much Ado About Nothing": a wonderfully free run

first night factor no less distracting than the Ayckbourn chuckle-count. I refer to the build-up: the arrival of a show on a tide of advance publicity heralding whatever it is as the Big One and reducing the unveiling ceremony to a mere matter of form. The West End, to give it its due, is less prone to this manoeuvre than the subsidized sector. It was the RSC's Trevor Nunn who supplied last year's biggest commercial build-up with his New London production of *Cats*. And, although that show swept most of my colleagues off their feet, reviewers as a breed generally resist being stampeded, and not least when the rest of Fleet Street has been labouring the significance of some upcoming event.

When it arrives, we are apt to cast our tiny spanner in the works: sometimes very unfairly, as in the disgraceful dismissal of *Nicholas Nickleby* ("too long"), said the overnight brigade, while the audience were further prolonging it with a 15-minute curtain call; sometimes justly, I believe, as in the case of the NT's *Oresteia* and the lamentable scramble onto Schnitzler's revolving band-wagon. Fair or unfair, such reactions apply to the publicity as well as the show. Being told what to think creates as much resistance as listening to the deep, rich belly laughs of the theatre owner's party. Given a chance, the reviewer will always pick the role of the little boy in the Emperor's New Clothes, and any management that values his opinion will leave him alone to watch the parade without the help of couriers or proclamations.

Theatre

King Lear

Orange Tree,
Richmond

To spectators unfamiliar with the Orange Tree style, it may seem a bit of cheek to present a work of almost unstageable sublimity on a narrow strip of floor where actors work with the most rudimentary props and costumes, and without even curtains on the windows.

Those who do know the place and the firm aesthetic that has evolved from these spartan conditions will remember its past successes in subduing other large-scale texts to the anti-illusionist rules. And, after Sam Walters' luminous production of *The Good Women of Setzuan* (in which every girl in the company had a turn in playing Shen Te), I look forward to seeing the *Ring* cycle at this address.

The sublime, admittedly, is not Mr Walters's zone. He is a narrative director, and most of the devices with which he disciplines huge works to his tiny space are there to indicate what is happening. *Lear*, on these terms, is not such an eccentric choice, as it calls for no elaborate interiors and there are many details in the story that get blotted out by conventional outpourings of tragic passion.

One such detail is that of Gloucester's eyes. We are used to the horrors of the blinding and the succeeding

Oedipal pathos. In this casually dressed version, Gloucester (Geoffrey Beavers) follows his early line of madness; but the task of representing senility through a vigorously youthful body in a fisherman's sweater has led him into compulsive smiling, chest-stroking and hammer-tap delivery through which you cannot see the mad Lear rejecting this feeble excuse, fishes the glasses out of Gloucester's pocket and plants them on his nose.

This kind of logical invention runs through the production, mastering each physical obstacle with effortless simplicity. For the battle, the floor is cleared and there is a single barbaric roar from all round the room. The storm is treated as a ring-a-roses routine, with player after player arriving to join hands with the rain-lashed party, and only moving in the transitional spasms between one verse paragraph and the next.

There remains, alas, the little matter of individual performances, which by no means share the virtues of the *mis-en-scène*. There are good performances, such as David Timson's Oswald (a thoroughly objective portrait of an intriguing coward who also happens to be a loyal servant with amiable manners). But there are others that belie the show's honesty by taking refuge behind artificial masks: such as the downgrading of Goneril and Regan into a pair of ugly sisters, and the lamentable doubling of a fearfully spite-

ful Cordelia and a strenuously manic Fool. Paul Shelley's *Lear* comes into its own from the onset of madness; but the task of representing senility through a vigorously youthful body in a fisherman's sweater has led him into compulsive smiling, chest-stroking and hammer-tap delivery through which you cannot see the mad Lear rejecting this feeble excuse, fishes the glasses out of Gloucester's pocket and plants them on his nose.

Irving Wardle

Trojan

Riverside

I would not want to feel responsible for a single person going to see Farrukh Dhondy's new play for the Black Theatre Cooperative. Denying the audience a dignified means of escape, the company decline to have an interval in a performance of nearly two hours in length. Many spectators, having an equal strength of will, took flight regardless, not in anger, not with the slamming of doors, but silently, in abject boredom. Mr Dhondy has achieved that boredom in rare circumstances: establishing that a handful of black workers have seized control of a British nuclear warhead and are holding the country to ransom, he manages to tell the story without creating a moment of tension or even raising curiosity.

It is a fable set within a fable, with suggestions of a slave rebellion that missed its moment in England's past but which could happen in the future. It is too tediously elaborated to make many spectators care, but at least there is a measure of intelligent performance in Trevor Nunn's production, with Ben Onwulke and Archie Pool showing some of their acting potential.

The great potential is undoubtedly Miss Black's, for she has a thrilling presence, a good voice and more understanding in her face than appears anywhere in the text. This time the Black Theatre Cooperative have gone badly astray, but anything else and you might have trouble believing a word of it. Lindsay Kemp and Christopher Bruce's *Cruel Garden* (BBC2), therefore, began at some disadvantage, but, from the moment the moon (Michael Ho) slipped over the fence in a circle of brilliant white light and slithered to the bulling floor, it transcended the glubness of its metaphors and sustained a terse dramatic spectacle to the end.

It was marvellously danced by Bruce himself in all the above roles — to which he added, memorably, that of a puppet bride — by Yair Vardi as the bull and other agents of destruction and by Nat Crosby and shot by Colin Nears that even unbelievers could overlook all the begged questions posed by an elaborate Deposition and an ambivalent shrug on the Cross.

You do not have to be English to take Stalky & Co (BBC2) — indeed you would probably get more out of it making convenient patterns for a doctoral thesis on the Imperial Ethic at Erlangen or Syracuse, N.Y. "I find it hard to believe," says Angus Wilson in his generally sympathetic study of Kipling, "that the book is not now as dead as *Eric*, or *Little by Little* or *Tom Brown's School-days*, which it was intended to replace," and, if Alexander Baron's adaptation is faithful to the original, it is impossible not to agree: there is something very resistible about that famous "rebellious" charm.

The first episode revolved around the destruction of the school by a fire. It was a wonderfully free run. The first episode revolved around the destruction of the school by a fire. It was a wonderfully free run. The first episode revolved around the destruction of the school by a fire. It was a wonderfully free run.

Joan Chissell



Robert Addie as Stalky and John Sterland as Mr Proust in "Stalky & Co": very resistible

Television

Credibility gap

You do not have to be Spanish to go along with all that bit about The Poet as bullfighter, victim, clown and Christ, but it helps. You might just be French (Cocote was, and he bought the mood change without any trouble believing a word of it. Lindsay Kemp and Christopher Bruce's *Cruel Garden* (BBC2), therefore, began at some disadvantage, but, from the moment the moon (Michael Ho) slipped over the fence in a circle of brilliant white light and slithered to the bulling floor, it transcended the glubness of its metaphors and sustained a terse dramatic spectacle to the end.

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almost entirely round which of the two houses was the smaller, King's or Proust's, and Proust's won because Beetle shot a cat by mistake and Stalky put the corpse in the roof above King's dorm: this was construed as a clear moral victory for independence of mind. Nicely enough done — producer Barry Letts, director Rodney Bennett — but sadly unfunny and smug.

Milos Forman on *The South Bank Show* (LWT) spoke well of his early career in Czechoslovakia — extracts from *A Blonde in Love* and *The Fireman's Ball* (it emerged that, after all, the fireman had adored it) came up wonderfully — but less well from *Taking Off* onwards and least well of all, alas, on the imminent *Requiem* which he seems to have turned into a cross between *Roots* and *Cabin in the Sky*.

In the *Open Door* programme *Protest and Survival* (BBC2), Schools Against the Bomb, uncovered Post-Nuclear Man. His name is Keith Bridge and he works from a bunker on Humber-side whence he prepares the few for the worst in the spirit of 1940 and answers the questions of importunate children with a keen, cold stare and the kind of fast fluttering around the eyelids that *Wildlife on One* warns us to watch out for in female baboons. He will be the Controller for the area and spoke in capital letters of Total Control and Powers of Life and Death. Did that sort of power worry him a bit? It did not. Indeed, nobody could watch this bracingly scornful programme without feeling that Humber Bridge could hardly wait for it all to begin.

Michael Ratcliffe

Dance
Cheerful
spirits

Royal Ballet

Covent Garden

David Peden, who danced the lead in *Les Patineurs* on Friday, brings an irresistibly cheerful spirit to the part, as well as the springy lightness, speed and crispness which make his many solo entries particularly dazzling. It is a long time, too, since we saw anyone come so close to restoring the original daring of one series of revolving leaps where the skater tries to throw his feet higher than his down-turned head.

Desiree Eyden's smoothly romantic character in white, with Fiona Chadwick and Genesia Rosato prettily neat as the two in red, were the other outstanding members of this new cast. Jennifer Jackson and Rosemary Taylor, as the blue girls, were perky in the trio with Peden, but made heavy going of their solos; perhaps the whole ballet should be handed over to the younger dancers.

There were new young interpreters, also, in *My Brother, My Sister*, Kenneth MacMillan's enigmatic but fascinating portrait of an enclosed family destroying itself. Ashley Page is another dancer distinguished by physical bravado; the way he hurls himself about the stage has an apparent recklessness that whips up the tension among the sisters.

Bryony Brind brings an unexpectedly knowing air to the first sister, who makes sense once you see the lascivious relish with which she sets about seducing the brother and picking off her sisters. Ross MacGibbon gives a puzzled, sturdy manner to the outsider, who watches their progression into depravity; Lesley Collier continues to strengthen her portrait of the innocent victim.

John Percival

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After Suslov, how long can hardline ideology survive?

by Michael Binyon in Moscow

The death of Mikhail Suslov, the longest serving and most influential member of the Soviet Politburo, raises two questions of fundamental importance to the future of the Soviet Union. Can and will he be replaced? And who will now play the role of king-maker in the struggle for supreme power in Moscow gets under way?

The icy embodiment of pure Stalinism had glided so long in the political constellation that somehow a future without this gaunt, sinister, puritanical figure seems unimaginable. For though Suslov was 72, his unbending ideological orthodoxy and ceaseless campaign against any reform or deviation gave him an influence that seemed almost immortal: the dedicated conscience of the party would go on and on as his more junior Politburo colleagues passed away.

But Suslov, trained in Stalinist ruthlessness and inspiring the same dread among ordinary Russians as the dictator who appointed him, is dead, and the party now has no high priest to guide it through the political, economic and ideological challenges facing it at home and abroad.

Could this lead to fundamental changes, a loosening of the dogma, an intellectual liberalization? In the short term it seems unlikely. Some of Suslov's international party functions may be taken over by Mr Boris Ponomarev, a man schooled in similar beliefs, whose real importance may at least be recognised by promotion to full — instead of candidate — membership of the Politburo. Other senior figures in the propaganda apparatus will take over Suslov's domestic responsibilities for enforcing the party line in education,

the arts and the country's intellectual life.

None will have as much individual authority but all have an interest in maintaining Marxism-Leninism in the mould in which it has developed in Soviet Russia. Today especially, with Soviet youth insidiously attracted to the western way of life, the fierce denunciation of the Italians and other Euro-communists and the political crisis in Poland, they cannot afford any lowering of their ideological guard, any questioning of party absolutes.

But in the longer term there must be changes, as a frustrated younger generation of educated technocrats, economists and even party activists recognize. Suslov's departure makes this easier. Voices now calling for a reorganization — though not abandonment — of collective farming, a move towards a market economy, greater material incentives, more consumer goods and perhaps even private enterprise on the

Hungarian model will encounter less resistance at the top.

Urgent economic reform will not be so inhibited by the ideological implications. Soviet communism, though making no formal break with the past or renouncing any of its tenets, will quietly adapt its philosophical framework to the political and economic realities of today's world. And though liberalization remains a dirty word to the present leaders, those senior officials now almost within grasp of real power will be secretly relieved that there is no Suslov to pronounce on their plans for change. He neither can, nor probably will, be replaced.

But the death of the "kingmaker" who turned down the post of general secretary after Nikita Khrushchev was ousted — will also affect the struggle for the party leadership. Although President Brezhnev's health has much improved over the past two years, he is now 75 and the next most senior party



Mikhail Suslov: the king-maker is dead and there is no one to take his place

secretary, would take over and continue Brezhnev's policies. But it could be only an interim appointment. Beneath the surface, alliances and understandings are probably already being forged for the second stage of the succession.

This might involve some of the younger, forceful men already in the Politburo such as Grigory Romanov, the Leningrad party secretary, or Mikhail Gorbachev, the energetic outsider brought in to solve the problems of Soviet agriculture. Romanov has a reputation as a good organizer, a pragmatist and a hardliner in his attitudes to the West — all qualities that would stand him in good stead.

Gorbachev is too new to have built up a power base of his own, but he can bring Soviet agriculture back from the brink of disaster — a Herculean task — he might be able to stake a claim on grounds of sheer competence.

Or the struggle might bring to the fore men whose names are still unfamiliar. And without Suslov's casting vote, there are other forces in Soviet politics that will increasingly influence the decision. One of these is Russian nationalism. There is a growing feeling among ethnic Russians who may be a minority in the Soviet Union by the end of the century that it is "their country". They look around them and see all the nationalities on the periphery, Estonians, Latvians, Georgians,

Armenians and even Uzbeks, living better with more to eat and a higher standard of living. Russian feeling is being fuelled by a nostalgia for past Russian glories, the growing influence of the Russian Orthodox Church, worries about the "yellowing" of the Soviet population with the central Asian population explosion, and the stagnation of agriculture in the Russian heartland. Already the Kremlin is paying special attention to the economic development of the Russian part of the country; any future leader will find powerful backers if he promises more.

Another influence is the military. The Soviet armed forces are well-trained, well-supplied and well-organized. Though still firmly under party control, many senior officers must be exasperated by the sloppiness and inefficiencies of the civilian sector, and believe that a more military style of discipline would suit the country well.

Finally, a more assertive Soviet nationalism is gaining ground. The post-Stalin generation is better educated, less cowed, and has less of an inferiority complex. But it also has less fearful memories of the war, and many people would like to see a tougher championing of Soviet interests in the world, a greater willingness to indulge in superpower politics at the risk of a challenge to the West. A new Soviet leader may be reached, formed about the world, but no more liberal at home or accommodating abroad. Like Suslov, he may also have strong doubts about the Brezhnev concept of détente.

These forces, rather than fidelity to the classic version of Marxism-Leninism, may nourish the eventual successor to Brezhnev. Ideology sustained the early revolutionaries and was used to justify Stalin's extreme measures. But with the departure of its Stalinist guardian, communism and its leaders may now concentrate less on doctrine and more on economics. They will be free to update and sharpen the approach without fearing, as Suslov constantly did, that the essence will be compromised.

Five in the running when Brezhnev goes



Kirilenko: next in line

Grishin: Moscow party boss

Gorbachev: tackling farm problems

Andropov: head of the KGB

Chernyenko: close Brezhnev associate

High time to strike an air fares balance

Will 1982 see a degree of sanity creep back into air fares?

Sanity means higher fares across the Atlantic, where they have been so low that several carriers are on the point of bankruptcy; it means lower fares in Europe, where they are now so high that many people who would like to fly cannot afford to do so.

Unfortunately the former is more likely than the latter, despite the best efforts of Lord Bethell and the British Government to persuade other European governments and airlines that they are charging too much.

After last week's meeting of IATA airlines in Florida, a 15 per cent rise in Atlantic fares in March, followed by a further 7½ per cent in May, seems virtually certain. The actual rises proposed for March 1 are shown in the accompanying table, and while Atlantic travellers can hardly be expected to welcome them, it is difficult to argue against them. The airlines claim not to have made a profit for 10 years on Atlantic operations; last year, with fuel costs rising and almost 40 per cent of seats empty, they lost £250m.

Higher fares are not expected to have much effect on the number of people crossing the Atlantic this year, which the airlines hope will be at worst static, at best 2 to 3 per cent up. But the deal could still come unstuck. Laker is not a member of IATA and therefore not

party to the agreement. He is under pressure from the banks to raise fares in line with the IATA agreement; he needs the extra cash as much as anyone, and may be forced to dent his public image and take it. But he has not yet applied to put up fares and, as always, is unpredictable.

Branniff, also in financial trouble, refused to sign the Florida agreement because it would keep its low fares, so Texas, its area of influence, is excluded.

While higher fares to Britain, Ireland, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal and Switzerland were agreed in Florida, those to France, Italy, Spain, Austria and Scandinavia were not. There is said to be nothing sinister about this; a second meeting will be held next month to bring the remainder into line.

Most significant of all, perhaps, is the fact that IATA cannot decide anything: it can only recommend. And even its own members are not bound by its recommendations. So there is nothing to stop Laker cutting fares in March instead of raising them, or to stop British Airways, PanAm and the rest following him down. The protection against that, the airlines declare, is the experience of the past five years.

A spokesman for one said yesterday: "We know there is little joy in a new low fare because others match it and

all suffer. It just isn't worth it. There is great desperation on the Atlantic, so we hope the new fares will stick."

Higher fares across the Atlantic could help to unfreeze the situation in Europe, where the big state carriers have sought to

recoup from high domestic fares what they lost internationally. Although IATA rightly claims that European carriers do not make excessive profits, and although the situation in higher costs and lower densities make European comparisons with United States

domestic tariffs not entirely valid, many European scheduled fares are clearly much too high. The accompanying table showing current one-way economy fares and British Airways' proposed Channel Hopper cheapies. But BA have got nowhere

with their Channel Hopper so far, as Laker got nowhere with his proposed cut-price European fares; even British Caledonian, with its more pragmatic approach, has secured agreement so far only to one Miniprix fare at up to 40 per cent below normal. One example: £42 to Amsterdam compared with £55 standard.

Even if Lord Bethell wins his case in the European Court and has the current fare-fixing declared contrary to the Treaty of Rome, the fear is that little or nothing will happen. For the fact is that EEC states can flout the decisions of the court with impunity; only genuine political determination will bring about change.

Even the more limited approach of the EEC Commission — that states should be allowed to set outward fares unilaterally where agreement cannot be reached with the bilateral partner — is thought unlikely to get off the ground at the Council of Ministers.

Yet the drip-drip-drip continues. On a lower key than Lord Bethell's exchanges of all kinds go on all the time. British Caledonian's chief executive, Mr Roy Watts, chairs the Association of European Airlines this year — and the spreading realization that European fares are too high must gradually bear fruit, like the customary conclusion on the Atlantic.

Michael Bailey

LOS ANGELES (\$489 miles)			
WINTER	£169	£202	
SUMMER	£227	£259	
PARIS (215 miles)			
WINTER	£66	£23	
SUMMER	£111	£45	
NEW YORK (3,440 miles)			
WINTER	£121	£143	
SUMMER	£169	£203	
LONDON			
WINTER	£121	£143	
SUMMER	£169	£203	
MADRID (773 miles)			
WINTER	£157.50	£55	
SUMMER	£169	£55	
ROME (896 miles)			
WINTER	£169	£55	
SUMMER	£169	£55	

Proposed fare changes London - New York			
One way	Current	Proposed	% Change
First	£117	£121	+3
Business	£315	£315	0
Executive	£363	£363	0
Economy	£124	£143	+15
Standard	£124	£169	+36
Standby	£90	£90	0
Shoulder	£110	£129	+17
Winter	£124	£138	+11
Summer	£124	£157	+26
Proposed fare changes London - Los Angeles			
One way	Current	Proposed	% Change
First	£126	£126	0
Business	£384	£384	0
Executive	£432	£432	0
Economy	£189	£202	+7
Standard	£227	£259	+14
Standby	£131	£143	+9
Shoulder	£154	£177	+15
Winter	£177	£200	+13
Summer	£177	£227	+28
One way economy fares in Europe			
Current	Standard	Channel	Proposed
London to Paris	£115	£88	£88
London to Brussels	£117	£65.50	£65.50
London to Amsterdam	£121	£65.50	£65.50
London to Frankfurt	£121	£65.50	£65.50
London to Zurich	£121	£65.50	£65.50
London to Vienna	£121	£65.50	£65.50
London to Madrid	£121	£65.50	£65.50
London to Rome	£121	£65.50	£65.50

An odyssey in search of Joyce's Dublin



Joyce: the city is his memorial

Poor old Dublin, who loves to turn her children to stone, cannot afford to put up a statue to her literary son, James Joyce, on the occasion of his centenary. They are having a round-the-clock reading of *Ulysses* on the radio instead.

Any way he would probably not have cared for the idea of a statue which would convey, The whole city is his memorial, at least those parts of it not gnawed away by time, revolution, neglect and the barbarism of property developers.

Mr Bloom could still take his Lestrygonian stroll, recognize much and miss a lot more between O'Connell Street and the National Museum. Graham Lemon's sweet shop, where Leopold Bloom's Bloomsday peregrination, is now an Old Kentucky restaurant. The Empire bar, where he spotted Bob Doran's bottle shoulders sloping in, is a Berni Inn. Davy Byrne's has had all its character amputated by fitted carpets and Formica; a token of Joyce hangs on the wall.

The Irish treat their cattle better than their pubs. A fashion for bad and outdated modernization has swept away the sumptuous brass and mahogany of all but a handful.

Doran's pub in Molesworth Street, where Bloom thrust a surreptitious hand in his trousers to see if he could tell colour by feel, is now a bright brown brick estate agents with chrome letters. No need to feel them; you can read them at a hundred yards.

Bloom's vision of the Home Rule sun rising over the old Parliament House needs a potent imagination nowadays; the skyline is rudely pierced by the hideous Meccano of the Central Bank, a planning decision tainted with the odour of corruption.

Nor can you sneak into the National Museum and emulate Bloom by peering up the nude sculpture whilst feigning an untidely shawl; they have been discreetly removed to the College of Art.

Yet much remains, not least Trinity College's dull stone set in the ring of the city's ignorance. And did I not see that most Joycean character, R. B. McDowell, emerge from the gate? His lips have not yet heard the news of his retirement, for he still delivers his history lectures to himself as he walks.

And here, its dark brown

aroma filling Westmoreland Street, is still Bewley's, still a still, as it were, Bloomsday, Dublin's favourite haunt. Owned by its employees now, and, partly self-service, it remains a welcoming cave of coffee, coloured water and marble tables, where many a victim hour is passed behind an Irish Times.

The Ballast Office clock, which Stephen Dedalus thought capable of an epiphany, still smiles down from a handsomely rebuilt facade, and Sweeney's the chemist still sells its lemon soap, although Mr Sweeney has long been replaced by Mrs Quin.

Bloom's Turkish baths are now a Norwich Union property development site, but old Thomas Moore still stands in stone, his finger cocked at a nearby urinal, so fitting for the composer of "The Meeting of the Waters". Lafayette, the photographer who portrayed the cream of Dublin's faces up three flights of stairs and Grafton Street, the Bond Street of Dublin, is still gay with housed awnings.

Mr Bloom's house at No 7 Eccles Street is reduced to a ruin, its front door preserved in the wall of the Bailey restaurant. The real Joyce's birthplace out in the suburbs at Rathgar is still a private house, where a Mr Harper now resides behind the memorial plaque. And the Martello tower out at Sandycove is a Joyce museum where 9,000 visitors a year go to see his piano, waistcoat and other sundry possessions.

Nobody remembers the man himself now. He left Dublin in 1904 and returned rarely, once to set up the city's first cinema, Lenny Collinge died two years ago, apart from being the first projectionist in the first cinema, his fame was based on the last Dubliner alive, the well-known Joyce personally.

The old city has changed her face, generally for the worse. But some attitudes to Joyce remain the same. The singers of Radio Telefís Eirann had reservations about performing some of the lines from Anthony Burgess's celebratory Joyce musical, due to be screened on Irish Television next month, because the words are far too rude. The original author had much the same trouble himself.

Alan Hamilton

David Irving's computer plans for the far right

David Irving, the right-wing historian and activist, has embarked on a scheme to master the diffuse forces of the political far right by developing a computerized mailing list of sympathizers throughout Britain. He is aiming for up to 300,000 names as a first step towards giving supporters the unified clout wielded by the "new right" in the United States.

I fear, however, that the methods Irving, 43, intends to use to build the list will bring the kind of controversy that has followed him since he started, in 1977, writing appreciatively about Hitler and the Third Reich.

Irving plans a series of advertisements in newspapers and periodicals, including *The Spectator*, in which he will offer cash



Irving: cash for names

to branch secretaries of right-wing groups for their current mailing lists. More controversially, he claims to have paid £50 to the organizers of a recent rally on behalf of the beleaguered Poles for the ticket stubs on which are recorded names and addresses of about 10,000 people whom Irving hopes will be sympathetic to his cause. (This has caused not a little alarm within that organization, which denies the claim but "will make inquiries".)

He said yesterday: "The idea of the mailing list is one of the secrets of the success of the right in America. This is an attempt to get sympathizers together because so far there has not been a list of such people — unless the Special Branch has one."

Irving has met resistance also from *Varsity*, the Cambridge University student newspaper, which has declined a £400 full-page advertisement. This follows a controversy over the way *Varsity* reported Irving's recent address to the Cambridge Union in which the historian questioned Hitler's awareness of the extermination of the Jews. The newspaper also refused Irving's request for space to reply to the report. Irving is now muttering about "taking the matter further."

A new taste

Egon Ronay is anxious to deny that he is stationing a spy in the kitchens of the Ritz, where the hotel's first English maître d'hôtel, Michael Quinn, has boldly announced his intention of pitching for highest gastronomic honours with an all-English menu. The fact is that one of Ronay's ablest inspectors,

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THE TIMES DIARY

Plácido Domingo, the Spanish opera star whose recent *Flamenco* tour has been popular, will be in London for a concert with pop-singer John Denver. The concert, which will be held at the Royal Albert Hall, is part of a series of performances by Domingo and his company, who will be in London for a concert with pop-singer John Denver. The concert, which will be held at the Royal Albert Hall, is part of a series of performances by Domingo and his company, who will be in London for a concert with pop-singer John Denver.

The song, written by two executives of his own record company, will appear as a Polydor

Michael Croft, has just been recruited to Quin's deputy. Quin's *Lucas* Guide for 1982, which Croft helped to prepare, promises that the newly appointed Quinn "will work wonders in what used to be Escoffier's domain." It also hints that they may be necessary, though, noting of the Ritz restaurant: "The luxurious decor of this sumptuous room, with its magnificent painted ceiling, encourages the diner to overlook occasional lapses in the cooking."

Croft, a sauce specialist, worked with Quinn previously at Gravety Manor, East Grinstead. During the year he came out of the kitchens to test the country's dining rooms and bedrooms. Croft proved, according to Ronay, "a most articulate writer of well-balanced reports on all aspects of hotels and restaurants." Usually, Ronay says,

he is reluctant to recruit chefs as inspectors, "because we are looking for a wider view."

Jefferson treasure

Edgemont, the Palladian house designed by Thomas Jefferson in Albemarle County, Virginia, and widely considered one of the finest examples of the architecture of the United States, has been sold to an anonymous Frenchman for about £1m.

Eight years before he became his country's third president, Jefferson designed it in 1793 in the style of Andrea Palladio's famous Villa Rotonda at Vicenza in northern Italy.

The house, which has been sold by Sotheby's Realty Corporation in New York, fell on hard times between the World Wars. In 1935 the distinguished American architect Milton Grigg discovered it and its gardens in a state of near ruin. He persuaded a friend to buy it and, from Jefferson's original plans, he identified in the Coolidge Collection of the Massachusetts History Society, embarked on a full

restoration which took 12 years. Grigg, who devoted much of his life to the restoration of Jeffersonian architecture. He regards Edgemont as the centre in the example of his entire work. Jefferson, who was responsible for much of the architecture and landscaping of Washington DC, came to England in 1786. The visit converted him to informal styles of planting and gaily landscaped parklands with irregular clumps of trees and thickets.

Culcha shock

Sir Les Patterson, Australia's cultural attaché in London, should be a happy man today. Years of promoting the virtues of Aussie "culcha" as the Barry Humphries creation pronounced it, seem to have paid off: the first Australian studies centre in the United Kingdom is to open at London University's Institute of Commonwealth Studies in September.

A joint initiative of the Australian government, the institute and the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Trust, the centre will provide a focus for antipodean studies, help Anglo-Australian understanding and perhaps provide seminars for British businessmen seeking trade links Down Under. Lord Carrington,

the Foreign Secretary, has shown a benevolent interest in the project, which will be jointly funded by the Australian government, the trust and the university.

Professor Geoffrey Bolton, Professor of History at Murdoch University in Western Australia, is to be the centre's first head. As well as promoting Australian Studies within the University of London, the centre will encourage their introduction in other British universities.

Hover doctor

A 20-member expedition team is to help set up a permanent "hovering doctor" service for riverside communities along the remote Amazon headwaters of the Apurimac River in Peru this summer.

Two specially built British lightweight Hovercraft which can travel over terrain impassable to conventional craft will be handed over by the team to the Amazon Trust, linking existing riverside health posts existing 120 miles of the Apurimac River area. A third Hovercraft will be given to the Regions Beyond Missionary Union for medical use on the Ucayali River.

Heading the volunteer team, which will explore the Amazon headwaters and navigate further towards the source of the great river, is the expedition's leader, Michael Cole R.A.F. who led the successful Joint Services Hovercraft Expedition to Nepal in 1978/79.

The expedition's Isle of Wight-produced "River Rover" Hovercraft is a bolt-together construction of aluminium and wood.

Michael Horsnell

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

MR REAGAN IN PERSON

One of the side effects of the Polish crisis has been to demonstrate the lack of understanding and confidence within the western alliance. This has come about partly because the United States and a number of its European partners, especially West Germany, made conflicting interpretations of events in Poland. It can be attributed partly to the confusion that exists in Washington over the making of foreign policy under the present administration because Mr Haig neither has the authority to make policy on his own nor sufficiently good relations with his colleagues to cooperate happily in making policy jointly. He becomes too easily obsessed with questions of jurisdiction.

But there is another, deeper weakness in the alliance that has been highlighted by the Polish tragedy: there is insufficient trust in American leadership. There is nothing new in this. For years it has been evident that the alliance can thrive only when there is confidence in strong American leadership, and under successive Presidents it has been evident that this confidence has been missing. Sometimes their policies have repelled European opinion,

but there has been a more personal factor as well. Not since the death of John Kennedy has an American President spoken to Europe in terms to which Europe has responded.

If confidence in the United States is to be restored in Europe it will require an exercise of personal leadership. It is therefore excellent news that President Reagan is to visit Europe in June. He came to office with one great advantage and one particular liability. He has a greater capacity than any President since Kennedy to speak in tones that can be appreciated beyond the shores of the United States. But he brought with him a reputation as a primitive extremist that is particularly distressing to European opinion. The reputation is unfair. It owed something, no doubt, to our failure to look at acts rather than rhetoric, something to liberal stereotyping. But it is a political fact which the President and his advisers must take into account.

The best way for Mr Reagan to make the most of his asset and the least of his liability is for him to be seen in person. That was precisely the tactic he employed to

such effect in his election campaign. He destroyed the myth of the wild man, sedulously fostered by the Carter camp, by his appearance in the television debate with Mr Carter. How could anyone believe that the more relaxed and friendly candidate could be a threat to world peace?

He needs to employ the same gift now in his dealings with Europe. The more he remains a remote figure in the White House the more it will be the Reagan caricature who is thought by European opinion to be the President of the United States. The more he talks with allied leaders — as he will be doing in the summit meetings in Europe — first of the industrialised nations and then of NATO — the better chance there will be of bridging the gap in understanding and devising a joint western approach, not just to Poland but also to the broader challenges of the 1980s. Yet even that will not be enough. If he is to reverse the dangerous tide of anti-American sentiment in western Europe he should take every opportunity to speak directly to the people on this side of the Atlantic. It is what he is best fitted to do and what they most need to hear.

FREEING TRAVEL FROM MONOPOLY

The business, commerce and political unity of Europe requires easy and economical travel. It does not have it in the air. The contrast with the United States is striking; competitive air travel has shrunk the continent so that the Boston publisher thinks nothing of popping down to Houston for the biography of an oilman. But Europe, which is supposed to be drawing closer together, is being driven apart by the national pride in flying the flag. It is this which underlies the excessive cost of flying on scheduled services: the British businessman thinks three times before adding to his costs with a £300-plus air trip to Madrid.

The British Government, happily for once fulfilling its competitive instincts, is trying to do something about reducing European air fares. It is not encouraged by British Airways which is dragging its feet, but it has in the private person of Lord Bethell a spear-carrier of exemplary courage. It is his persistence against a weight of political and bureaucratic inertia that would have made Kafka writ that has put the issue firmly on the agenda. This week he is expected personally to see Sabena, the Belgian air line, in the English county courts. He claims that they overcharge him by about £50 each time he flies to Brussels, contrary to EEC law.

There are those who hold that Lord Bethell is reducing what is essentially a political and commercial argument to a narrowly legalistic one and that his actions are therefore unhelpful. He himself believes on the contrary that commercial and political pressure have failed so singly

over the years to crack the European price fixing that the sharp needle of legal denunciation is the only way of producing a response. He deserves support for trying. As the article on the opposite page shows, it is possible to fly from London to destinations in North America more cheaply than to Europe. This is so partly because certain costs are higher in Europe (but need they be?) and because the traffic is less dense; but it is also because if an outside airline seeks to introduce a new low fare on a national route the national airline will swiftly have the fare prohibited by its government. Lord Bethell and the British Government argue that this is contrary to the interests of the consumer and contrary to the Treaty of Rome which requires free competition within the Common Market. That is why he is also suing the European Commission, goading it to act as watchdog.

It would be cavalier to dismiss the opposition by the monopoly state carriers in Europe as narrow self-interest. The President of Air France, M. Pierre Giraudet, argued in his Presidential address to IATA last autumn that free competition could not optimize the market. Weightier issues of freedom and order come into it. Air transport, he argued, is part of the nation's activity that no country can do without. No nation could rely on a foreign company driven only by the profit motive for its exchange with the rest of the world. Some company will always be found, he argued, to provide tariffs which only cover variable costs so as to fill planes. Its national competitor and others would then be forced

into a race away from profitability: "an infernal cycle is set in motion, taking all companies to their ruin".

The flaw in the argument, from the European and the consumer's point of view, is its insistence on the survival of national airlines. That is contrary to the spirit of the Common Market and the Treaty of Rome. In the United States free competition rules within a true common market and fares are a half to a third of those in Europe. There are no individual states preventing competition on behalf of a favourite son.

Last year more than a million Britons saw something of America, an astonishing and welcome increase in our travel. We should have comparative ease in visiting Europe. As an island the British depend more on air and should be able to travel without the hindrance of monopoly charges.

Britain's air transport industry, despite the troubles of British Airways and Laker, is probably the most competitive after America's. British Airways' alliance with the state monopoly carriers is therefore disappointing: it is understandable that the others should be more frightened of competition. But the conflict could and should be resolved by the formulation of a positive and distinctively European policy for air transport. In its absence the interests of the consumers are being blatantly over-ridden. Lord Bethell is right to pursue the EEC Commission through the courts and the Government should be encouraged to help. The Commission, whose job it is to try to formulate the community's common policy, should be delighted to play fair with Lord Bethell's suit.

money, in effect it can put up spending only within the limits set by the domestic governments of the Ten, who have good political reasons back home for keeping expenditure strictly under their own control and tune with their own electoral imperatives.

It was extraordinary that the constituent governments of the EEC should ever have conceded the right of Parliament to any voice at all in the Community budget. They did, though reluctantly. In 1970 the budgetary provisions of the treaties were amended, and the Council of Ministers itself asked the Commission to submit proposals on the Parliament's budgetary powers. Two years later nothing had happened.

Georges Spenale, the French socialist, persuaded the Parliament to use the ultimate deterrent of a censure motion against the Commission. That motion was withdrawn only on the understanding that proposals would be forthcoming. In January 1975, new budgetary rules began to operate, and seven months later Parliament was given power to reject the Community budget — to this day its one substantial gain over the bureaucracy.

Nevertheless, it is still a power better ignored than used. Parliament's president has to sign the annual budget into operation, and more than once there have been delays. But only once has the Parliament rejected a budget — stock and barrel. That was the 1980 draft budget, with the able German trade unionist Erwin Lange as chairman of the budget committee and Peter Dankert as rapporteur. The budget did not pass until July. Meanwhile the Community lived on the short commons of 1979 — not least the Parliament itself.

The point is that the Parliament wants to increase community spending, especially on domestic, social and regional policies, and unlike the govern-

ments of the Ten it wants to break through the one per cent ceiling on VAT receipts; and to reject the budget means limiting next year's budget to the same level as this year's. Therefore, it is a self-defeating operation. The only source of new revenue for the Parliament, which now exercises control over roughly a third of the Community budget, is to reduce spending on the common agricultural policy, which has been the mainstay of the early days of the Six as obligatory. Now it is certain that CAP cuts would carry in a Parliament where the farming vote is electorally sensitive.

Here will lie Robert Jackson's problem. One of his first preoccupations as rapporteur will be the decision of the Council of Foreign Ministers to take the European Parliament to the Luxembourg Court because Mme Veil signed the 1982 budget into operation after Parliament had increased expenditure without Council approval. Meanwhile, throughout the Community the farmers, and politicians who need their votes, have begun the fight for much bigger increases in CAP expenditure for 1982 than the Commission has proposed. Christopher Tugendhat, the Budget Commissioner, will soon be banging his head against the one per cent VAT ceiling, which at least half the governments of the Ten say must be as unchangeable as the Ten Commandments.

Robert Jackson said yesterday that the British Government and the European Parliament are taking the same road: "Both want a more cost-effective CAP and to expand the non-agricultural policies from which Britain benefits." I suspect that a few years ago, writing for *The Times*, he would have built in more qualifications, and a milder measure of politicians' licence. If only politicians would confess that every solution to a problem creates a new problem.

Roosevelt and the use of power

From Mr P. F. Breakell

Sir, Mr Henry Fairlie's sharp insight into American affairs makes it the more surprising that his January 20 "Is Reagan a Roosevelt?" should be so wide of the mark.

In making this strange comparison he omits the vital factor — power and the national will to exercise it. Were there 11 or 13 million unemployed in America between the start of the New Deal and the last war? Certainly there were many. Roosevelt dredged great power and comparative unity out of a national awareness of disaster to which he boldly and credibly claimed the only solution.

President Reagan has no such launching pad. American power and the willingness to use it have drastically declined in the affluent nuclear "peace" of the past 35 years. Caution, à la Carter, is all. Risk is not to be considered. How many will volunteer under that sort of banner? Nevertheless he tries hard for revival. He may be too late but I cannot believe that he does not deserve support.

Mr Fairlie overworks that fashionable word "compassion". Compassion, expressed in a sort of vacuum, is not only condescending but also unhelpful. Surely no president can go about demonstrating compassion as if he were a bishop. However, he may be able to provide it in material terms if he can arouse some sense of purpose in many of those who need and deserve it. Last, Mr Fairlie writes about "dispirited Americanism" here with the names of Mrs Thatcher and Mr Disraeli added for some emphasis that escapes me. It seems to me simply that our power is now greatly reduced and that pride in refusing to recognise this positively hobbles us. Regarding the absurdity of Mr Heath's tirade in Johannesburg last year — a sort of Broken Wind of Change speech. Very soon afterwards his old South African comrades in arms captured a great cache of Russian arms complete with Soviet operators. They found the contrast between moralistic waffle and the exercise of power for survival quite shocking.

Our forbears used to be much better at using small power for great purposes.

Yours faithfully,
P. F. BREAKELL,
11 Fitzroy Square, W1.

Positive discrimination

From Michael Malone

Sir, Mr Werdnüller (January 25) refers repeatedly to the need to remove discriminatory practices as being the justification for positive discrimination. It seems to me that he does not appreciate the distinction between indirect discrimination and positive discrimination.

We already have laws against indirect racial and sex discrimination, laws which are designed to eliminate unjustifiable employment and other practices which have developed quite innocently but which have the effect of penalising or handicapping racial minorities or women (or sometimes men).

Positive discrimination, which happily is lawful only to a very limited extent, is a very different animal. It is a blunt instrument which, on the basis of crude statistics, not only works injustice against individuals but also strikes at the whole moral basis of the laws against discrimination.

Without such moral basis these laws will be left based only on expediency and as such can never hope to command the full assent and support of our society.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MALONE,
22 Higher Dunscur,
Bolton,
Lancashire,
January 27.

Validity of orders

From Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC

Sir, Mr Gerard Noel writes (January 22) that it would surely be more "honest and dignified" (whatever that may mean) for the Roman Catholic Church to abandon its Secularist stance. I hope that his letter will not be taken as the heretic's voice of the Roman Catholic Church.

To some Allied soldiers nearly forty years ago and today to millions of Poles, the value of the minuscule Vatican City State has been demonstrated in war and in uneasy peace. But above all, to many of us, it is wholly desirable that the head of the Church with such a massive worldwide membership should be able to preach and write and pray in a state independent in international law, of all other secular dominions.

Yours faithfully,
RAWLINSON,
12 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4,
January 25.

Conviction

From Mr Tom O'Carroll

Sir, I do not in the least object to your diarist's reference to me (Jan 21) as a successful author, but for him to say I am serving a sentence for "sexual offences" is another matter. I have one conviction only, which is for "conspiracy to corrupt public morals". This offence, which was concerned solely with a publication, did not involve me, or anyone else, in any sexual conduct, legal or otherwise.

Yours faithfully,
TOM O'CARROLL,
HM Prison,
Headfield Road,
Wandsworth SW18.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

When fuel supplies are disconnected

From the Chairman of the London Electricity Consultative Council

Sir, Early this month, the gas and electricity industries will give the Government their responses to the recommendations in the report, *Fuel Debts and Hardship*, published by the Policy Studies Institute last November.

This study was sponsored in 1978 by the industries, as well as the Electricity Consumers Council and the National Gas Consumers Council, under the guidance of the Department of Energy. It set out to discover whether the fuel boards' code of practice provides firm and effective safeguards against disconnection in cases of hardship. The review took nearly three years to complete, and it was very thorough.

The PSI found that the voluntary code of practice has not worked properly, and gives inadequate protection to those most vulnerable in their dealings with the fuel boards. It recommended a wide range of improvements, most of which my council — the statutory watchdog for London electricity consumers — has supported in its own submission to the Government.

Overall, the PSI's proposals will cut out most of the opportunities for abuse of the existing code by those who can afford to pay, leaving a system designed to deal automatically with the great majority of hardship cases, without resort to disconnection. This what the industries, and every other interested party, including the government, claim to want.

'New deal' for Britain

From Mr Richard Wainwright, M.P. for Colne Valley, (Liberal) and Mr Harry Cowie

Sir, We welcome Christopher Johnson's article, "Why Britain needs a New Deal" (January 20), which makes a powerful case for a substantial increase in public sector investment, especially housing, roads, water services and social infrastructure. Liberals have recently published a pamphlet, *A Chance to Succeed*, outlining a national programme calling for £1,500m extra in these sectors, which we estimate would create around 450,000 jobs, mainly in private manufacturing, particularly the depressed construction industry. It would be necessary to ensure that small companies get their fair share of subcontracting, by government laying down a minimum of 20 per cent of purchasing to come from that sector.

There is also a strong case for investing heavily in advanced technology, both of the kind and the regions which have the highest unemployment rates. We see information technology as a challenge and a threat. It could reverse the trend of the last 50 years towards mass-production factories and huge outflows.

The scope for the application of micro-computers is considerable, not least in the welfare services, which still operate punch-card systems. But it will only be effective when there is a national network of System X exchanges linked by optic fibre cables permitting small teams to plug into national data banks.

To this end, large companies must be encouraged to have off existing departments (and especially new projects) to their own employees, giving them a bigger say and a profit participation in their own companies.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WAINWRIGHT,
HARRY COWIE,
Chairman,
Liberal Party Treasury Affairs Panel,
The Liberal Party Organization,
Whitehall Place, S.W.1,
January 20.

Diabetes screening

From Dr P. J. Watkins

Sir, Your Health Services Correspondent, Annabel Ferriman, has presented a balanced view of health screening (January 22) but suggested screening for early diabetes is controversial. It may be, as she points out, controversial whether or not life is prolonged by early treatment, but few of those detected by screening are actually symptomatic. Diabetes is one of the few disorders detected on routine screening in which well-being actually improves as a result of treatment.

Diabetes is common: about half a million diagnosed in the UK and an equal number again, currently undiagnosed, who could be detected by screening. The tests are simple and cheap: either a urine test or a blood sugar test.

Blindness and foot disease (leading to infection, gangrene and amputation) are well-known complications of diabetes. Both these conditions can be alleviated, or even prevented, by early diagnosis and treatment.

Surely this is one of the most effective and cheapest forms of health screening with real benefits.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. WATKINS, Chairman,
Medical Advisory Committee,
British Diabetic Association,
10 Queen Anne Street, W1,
January 27.

Proper names

From Mr Martin Butlin

Sir, Your readers may be amused by two messages of greeting from abroad that have arrived on my desk at the Tate Gallery. One is addressed to "Mr William Blake, Tate Gallery 17/57, London, England"; the figures are presumably the date of Blake's birth date, 1757. The other came directed to the attention of "Mr and Mrs J. M. W. Turner, Chichester Canal Circa 1830-1, Tate Gallery 560, England". In this case the address, which miraculously seems to have caused no problems to the Tate Office, is based on the title date, 1822, and the number of the painting in the Turner Bequest.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN BUTLIN,
Keeper of Historic British Collection,
Tate Gallery,
Millbank, SW1,
January 26.

From Mr K. St. Pavlovitch

Sir, I was during the last war Principal Private Secretary to the Yugoslav Prime Minister. One morning, in 1942, a messenger from the War Office came and handed me an official letter addressed to the Czechoslovak Liaison Officer to the Yugoslav Government.

In 1956, when the second volume of my five volume biography of a Yugoslav statesman was published, I sent a copy

Establishing new long distance paths

From the Secretary of the Ramblers Association

Sir, The Countryside Commission has just announced that the Cambrian Way long distance path, from Cardiff to Conwy, is not to be designated. The negative attitude of a number of Welsh local authorities has caused the commission to abandon the project.

There are several lessons to be drawn from this unfortunate decision. May I refer to two of them?

In the first place, the Cambrian Way saga has demonstrated the inadequacy of procedures for establishing new long distance paths. Although the commission is responsible for the designation of the paths and for paying 100% grant towards their maintenance, they have no actual powers to create the necessary rights of way. They have to rely entirely on the co-operation of local authorities along the route, and sometimes this is not forthcoming. In addition, the routes can only be created on a piecemeal basis, with separate orders and public inquiries being needed for each individual stretch of new path. Although the commission have indicated their desire for a more streamlined procedure, and although we promoted a suitable amendment during the passage of the Wildlife and Countryside Bill, that opportunity was not taken up and the old procedures still remain.

A more important lesson concerns the role of the commission itself. The abandonment of the Cambrian Way has been offered as an example of the commission's switch in priority from recreation to conservation. The commission should tread very warily along this path. Already it is becoming heavily involved in the field of wildlife conservation, which is more properly the preserve of the Nature Conservancy Council.

At the same time it is closing regional offices and is handing over the administration of the Regional Councils for Sport and Recreation to the Sports Council. If these trends continue, people will come to question whether there is a need for the commission as a separate body at all. We would make this a tragedy because in our view the commission has a unique role as an organisation that can promote the national interests of informal recreation in the countryside. In pursuing this role, one of the commission's few executive powers is the designation and promotion of long distance paths. Following the decision on the Cambrian Way, the Commission should now demonstrate that this is a power which it intends to continue making good use of.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN MATTINGLY, Secretary,
The Ramblers Association,
15 Wandsworth Road, SW8,
January 28.

'Police' series

From Mr Roger Graef

Sir, As you are a newspaper of record, may I put straight the circumstances under which the *Police* series originated (article, Monday, January 25).

The idea emerged from John Shearer, Head of General Programmes Unit, BBC Bristol, and Philip Daly, Head of the Bristol Network Production Centre, early in 1979. They approached the Association of Chief Police Officers for general approval of the series in the summer of 1979. I was engaged as executive producer/director in November 1979. The team was then built that would make the series, including Charles Stewart as co-director/cameraman, and Amanda Theunissen, assistant producer and Glen Davis, researcher. We devoted the next few months to learning about a variety of police forces and their willingness to receive us openly. By 1980 we settled on Thames Valley Police.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER GRAEF,
BBC Bristol,
Broadcasting House,
Whiteladies Road,
Bristol.

Shingles and shakes

From Mr M. W. Inman

Sir, Fifty years ago I climbed trembling up the steep-sided ladders to the spire of Ewhurst Church in Surrey, having just delivered 17,000 cleft oak shingles for its re-covering.

May I correct Mr, Peter Stedman (Letters January 26) for calling them "shakes" which means something very different in the home-grown timber trade and applies to the imported sawn article.

For well over a hundred years the firm founded by my great-grandfather produced many thousands of cleft oak shingles which were a by-product from the cleaving of larger items such as pales, spokes and barrel staves.

It is good to know that shingles are now being specially cleft more easily from chestnut and unsuitable for spokes and staves.

Yours faithfully,
M. W. INMAN,
7 Southover High Street,
Lewes, Sussex,
January 28.

Driving ambition

From Mr John Parker

Sir, I wonder how many school-boys now wish to be engine drivers when they grow up.

Yours truly,
JOHN PARKER,
The Sycamores,
Devisdale Road,
Bowden,
Cheshire,
January 28.

David Wood

A job making European reputations

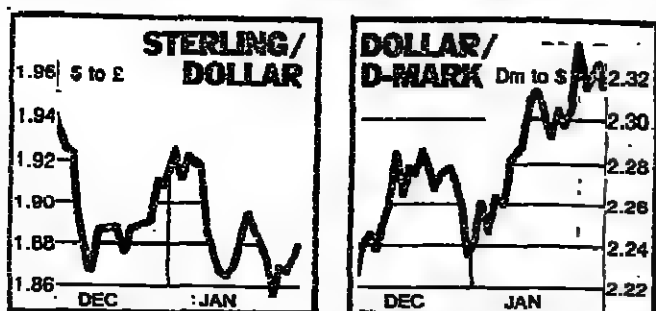
The appointment as rapporteur of the European Parliament's budget committee of Robert Jackson, Conservative MEP for Upper Thames, is agreeable to record for more than one reason. On one level, it is good to see a former *Times* writer proving that he has far more than the gift of the gab and an aura of All Souls that hangs like incense over his desk and his presence. On another level, if the United Kingdom could not win the Strasbourg presidency at the first time of asking, then this rapporteurship must be reckoned the next best thing.

It is a demanding post that has made several European reputations since 1976. In the old nominated Parliament first Michael Shaw, Westminster MP for Scarborough, and then Lord Bruce of Donnington, as budget rapporteurs became much bigger men than their colleagues had taken them to be; and as we know, Pieter Dankert, the Dutch socialist, who took over from Bruce in the 1979 directly elected Parliament, made the leap from the rapporteurship to the presidency this year.

So far, so good. Yet it must be admitted that Strasbourg's budget committee, particularly the chairman and rapporteur, increasingly find themselves caught in a crossfire. The European Parliament, both when nominated and now it is directly elected, has constantly demanded a bigger say in how Community money should be spent. Because it cannot raise

BUSINESS NEWS

Spotlight on dollar



The dollar will be watched closely this week. European leaders are pressing for a cut in American interest rates which could cause it to weaken. But the disappointing money supplies figures limit the Federal Reserve Board's freedom to bring rates down.

CBI in Market campaign

Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, today inaugurates a CBI campaign for Britain to remain within the EEC with a warning that the jobs of 2.5 million workers in British companies depend on the United Kingdom's continued membership. He said that hundreds of thousands of these would be jeopardized by pulling out.

Oil cut urged on Saudis

Pressure in Saudi Arabia to cut oil production and support falling prices mounted as Ministers from the Gulf Cooperation Council met in Riyadh. Saudi Arabia, yesterday. But Dr Mana Said al-Otaiba, the United Arab Emirates oil minister and president of Opec, said he did not expect an Opec meeting before that set for Quito, Ecuador, in May.

Warning on reflation

A warning that an increase in the money supply of as little as 1 per cent a year could eliminate the British balance of payments surplus has been given by Phillips & Drew, the stockbrokers, in their February economic forecasts.

The firm also expects no average real growth in gross national product between 1983 and 1985. Indeed, after achieving growth this year and in 1983, gnp could contract by 1.5 per cent in 1985.

Inflation is not expected to fall below 10 per cent a year for any significant period between now and the middle of the decade.

Easing tension

Japan has now formally adapted a series of measures to boost imports and soothe growing tensions with the West over trade. Mr John Biffen, the Secretary of State for Trade, who is today starting a three-day official visit to Japan will use the opportunity to encourage increased foreign investment in Japan.

Export talks

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development opens two weeks of commodity talks in Geneva today to help third world countries improve export earnings by processing their raw materials, such as refining sugar or canning vegetables. Until now, Unctad has concentrated on stabilizing prices for raw materials through buffer stocks and international agreements.

Scanner advance

M & D Technology has been set up in Scotland to design and manufacture Nuclear Magnetic Resonance scanners for medical use. The £400,000 instruments represent a big advance in the screening and diagnosis of cancer. They can give doctors not only an image of organs in the body but also an idea of the biochemical processes taking place.

Prutech, Prudential Assurance's high technology investment arm, is the main shareholder with a 35 per cent stake.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Improvement hopes

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 579.8
FT 100 65
FT All-Share 330.83
Bargains 20,560
(Friday's close)

Rationalization has cost Reed International £5.5m so far this year. But third quarter results due on Tuesday should show that the group is well on the way to improving on last year's £5.5m pre-tax, with analysts expecting between £7.6m and £8.0m, for the year to March. At the half way stage pre-tax profits of £3.8m were up £1.1m on the previous year and would have been higher but for increased interest charges and the weakness of sterling against the dollar, the currency in which newspaper is priced. The IPC magazine business was the main contributor to profits at mid-year, after strike losses the previous year. Besides an improvement in the publishing divisions, Reed's decorative products division is returning to profit and could

contribute around £10m to full year profits. There should be a reasonable increase in dividend for the year to around 20p, against 18.6p.

Electronics has been a glamorous sector in the recent past but has lost some of its gloss and half-year figures of Unitech due on Tuesday will bear this out and are likely to be below last year's £2.25m at the half-year. Mr Peter Curry, chairman, gave warning last September that profits for the half year would be down, but said that the year as a whole should be similar to the previous year when taxable profits amounted to £4.5m.

Depressed United Kingdom markets have been matched by a similar situation in both France and Germany, particularly the latter, where intense competition has led to the newly acquired subsidiary Enatech.

Dividend for the year should be held at 10p and with the shares at 227p yielding a mere 4.4 per cent.

Hillards the York stores group, proved what increased market share could achieve when pre-tax profits leapt 72 per cent in the year to May.

INSURANCE

The Lloyd's Bill reaches a crucial stage on Wednesday at its third reading in the House of Commons with Conservative backbenchers still opposed to the so-called "immunity clause" and threatening a filibuster unless Lloyd's agrees to compromise. The "immunity" clause would give a new ruling council protection from being sued for damages by members of Lloyd's who have been lobbying against the immunity clause. Mr Lloyd's chairman Mr Peter Green to try to come to some understanding. But Mr Pearson would only say after the meeting: "We didn't agree but I would still be hopeful that we can."

It is, however, doubtful whether Lloyd's will step down, and if the Bill does not go through on Wednesday, it could fall through lack of parliamentary time.

Mr Peter Miller, the Lloyd's committee member who has been responsible for steering the Bill through, said the immunity clause had been closely examined at the committee stage of the Bill and Lloyd's had already refined it by proposing an amendment overriding immunity in the case of clerical error. He said it was not possible to compromise now.

But Mr Archibald Hamilton, Conservative MP for Epsom and Ewell who has taken a close interest in the Bill and opposed immunity said that he found Lloyd's attitude quite extraordinary. The Bill is due for debate between 7 and 10 o'clock and a large number of amendments are being tabled. Mr Hamilton said: "I think it will get talked out unless some compromise is made."

He added that if that happened there was virtually no chance of getting more parliamentary time.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY: Interim: Electronic Machine, Hillards, R H Morley, Regional Properties, Howard Shuttling, J. H. H. (8 months).
Finals: Holidex (8 months).
Whitworth Electrical.
Finals: Kellogg Trust.
TOMORROW: Interim: Cowan De Groot, Gold Fields of South Africa (3 months), Unitech, Zetfish.
Finals: IDC, Prestige.
WEDNESDAY: Interim: Wickes Securities, Mid Wynd Trust, Munton Bros, Steinberg.
Finals: Western Selection, Westminster Properties.
THURSDAY: Interim: Kinta Kelas Rubber, Malaysia Rubber, States and Union.
Finals: Blundell-Permozglaz, Lonsdale Universal Scottish Agricultural.
FRIDAY: Interim: Burt Boulton, Capital Reserve Fund, Burt Boulton, English Associated, M L Holdings, Portsmouth and Sunderland News (3 months).
Finals: Associated Fisheries, Glasgow Stockholders Trust.

DIARY

Today: Select committee discusses Budgetary reform.
Tomorrow: CBI industrial trends survey for January; United Kingdom official reserves for January; Capital issues and redemptions for January.
Wednesday: Advance energy statistics for December; Commons discusses Lloyd's Bill.
Thursday: Public sector borrowing requirement and details of local authority borrowing for fourth quarter.
Friday: Housing starts and completions for December.
Companies reporting their results this week include Electronic Machine, Hillards, Regional Properties, Cowan De Groot, Gold Fields of South Africa, Reed and Unitech, Westminster Properties, Stonehill, Sentrust, Blundell-Permozglaz, Burt Boulton and Associated Fisheries.

Industry renews fuel bills offensive

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Britain's energy-intensive industries are to step up demands on the Government to cut their fuel bills.

Anger over Whitehall's failure to reduce the disparity between prices paid for gas and electricity by some United Kingdom industries, including chemicals, steel, paper and board, compared with their European rivals, has been simmering since last autumn. It is now set to erupt again.

The second report published last November showed that in the case of most fuels the gap had closed. Even so, the UK's biggest power users were still paying up to 16 per cent more for electricity than in West Germany and up to 28 per cent more than in France.

The steel industry, which last year paid out £520m for gas, electricity and fuel oil, is spearheading the latest offensive. Steelmakers claim that change rate movements in the period since the last task force report have opened up the disparities once more and, worse still, British Gas — at present at loggerheads with Mr Nigel Lawson, Sec-

retary of State for Energy, over the Government's privatization plans — is demanding quarterly increases of 1p a therm, on renewal of firm gas contracts.

This move is regarded by the British Steel Corporation and by independent steel producers as a reversion to the gas corporation's unrealistic pricing policy following the Government-imposed freeze on renewal prices made in the 1981 Budget.

They also see the quarterly increase clause as conflicting with the gas corporation's pledge to apply increases "taking account of market conditions".

Through the NEDC the Iron & Steel Sector Working Party is urging both Mr Lawson and Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, to act swiftly and implement a coherent and positive response against a background of the volume of evidence provided by the task force.

BSC, which claims that its total energy cost disadvantage, compared with its European competitors, is equivalent to an additional £3 on every tonne of liquid steel it produces, is supporting representations made to ministers by the British Independent Steel Producers Association.

Hopes for cutting the industry's £260m a year electricity bill centre on the review of the Bulk Supply Tariff carried out by the electricity supply industry which is now being studied by Mr Lawson. Indications are that any concessions will fall well short of what companies believe is necessary to make them competitive with European steelmakers.

The electricity supply industry is suggesting a modification of its category C load management system implemented a year ago. This provided industrial customers with additional discounts in return for much shorter notice of supply reductions. It appears that the electricity industry is prepared to offer large industrial customers fewer supply reductions and longer notice of them.

The effect would be to reduce by about 5 per cent the price rises which the electricity industry will be introducing for all customers in the spring, and involving increases of about ten per cent.

The steelmakers have told Mr Lawson that they want to be involved in discussion of any changes to the load management structure and tariffs before any decisions are taken.

Heron in new move to stop ACC bid

By Gareth David

Mr Gerald Ronson of Heron Corporation is making another attempt to persuade the small number of voting shareholders of Associated Communications Corporation to reject the £36m bid by Mr Robert Holmes a Court, the Australian financier, and open the way to further suitors.

Heron says in a letter addressed to the shareholders which they will receive today from Barclays Merchant Bank. Heron's advisers that Mr Holmes a Court undertook to free ACC directors from accepting his offer in the event of a preferable one.

In summing up at the High Court hearing which turned down Mr Ronson's attempt to stop the Holmes a Court offer, Mr Justice Vinelott ordered an extraordinary meeting of ACC voting shareholders to be held to consider the bid.

Mr Holmes a Court has received commitments from directors representing 63.6 per cent of ACC voting shares and in qualifying his undertaking to waive these commitments effectively reserved the right to decide what constituted a better offer.

This move by Barclays on behalf of Mr Ronson comes on the day Heron is due to go to the Appeal Court to overturn Friday's High Court Ruling that stopped his £46.5m bid for ACC which was £10m more than the value of Mr Holmes a Court's Bell Group offer.

At Thursday's hearing, Mr Justice Vinelott referred to the ACC's financial position and noted that a sale of assets or long-term borrowings was needed to meet its obligations. "It seems to me wholly understandable that directors in that position could not afford to call Mr Holmes a Court's bluff without possible damaging consequences", he said.

TUC urges campaign to draw foreign investors

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The TUC will urge the Government this week to introduce new measures to attract foreign investors to the United Kingdom in a major bid to increase industrial competitiveness and reduce unemployment.

A paper to be delivered by the TUC to Wednesday's National Economic Development Council will argue that the abolition of exchange controls has led to a big rise in the United Kingdom portfolio investments abroad with a subsequent damaging impact on the domestic economy.

The meeting is to be chaired by Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, and it is likely that industry and union leaders will take the opportunity to widen the debate into a general discussion on the economy, the state of industry and unemployment.

It is to take place just 24 hours after the publication of the Confederation of British Industry's latest quarterly trends survey which is expected to confirm employers' view that a modest recovery of only one per cent is likely in the United Kingdom industrial output this year.

The CBI's last monthly trends survey, issued a few days before Christmas, showed that 65 per cent of manufacturing companies expected their production volumes to remain at their present depressed levels at least until the end of April.

Wednesday's meeting also comes in the wake of the numerous Budget submissions that have now been sent to Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Many of those from industrial organizations call for investment incentives, particularly for small firms, and a lessening of constraints such as the National Insurance surcharge.

The CBI's budget recommendations, expected next week, are also expected to urge a reduction in the surcharge which, it believes, could create up to 200,000 jobs. The employers' organization will also call for a £2,000m

Cable TV report completed

By Bill Johnstone

A Cabinet Office advisory committee has just completed a report favouring relaxation of the present constraints on cable television. The study, prepared by the Committee on Information Technology, takes account of submissions by the National Economic Development Office, Department of Industry, Home Office and interested parties in the television industry.

The report, which is to be published within the next month, is expected to precipitate a statement on the subject by the government about the middle of this year, designated Information Technology Year.

There are seven operators in the United Kingdom who have been allowed to take part in a two-year cable television experiment in more than a dozen locations around Britain in order to gauge the public's response to such a service. They are Rediffusion, Visionline Cable, British Telecom, Radio Rentals, Greenwich Cablevision and Cablevision of Wellingborough.

The patent on the PAL colour television system, held by Telefunken of Germany — which prevented the foreign manufacture of colour television sets over 20 inches — will expire in 1983.

Many in the consumer electronics industry who submitted evidence to the Cabinet Office committee on cable television have claimed that a government initiative relaxing the constraints would give a much-needed boost to the British manufacturing industry. Others who have submitted evidence have gone further by suggesting that the use of British equipment in these cable television networks should be a condition for an operating licence.

Two other independent studies on cable television are to start soon. One is by CIT Research, which is also investigating the export potential of System X for the Government and another is by the Broadcast Research Unit.

At the moment there are fewer than two million homes in the United Kingdom wired for cable.



London Metal Exchange: heavy buying of tin.

Malaysia confirms talks on tin cartel

By Michael Prest

A close association between Malaysia and buyers who have pushed up the price of tin by more than £2,000 a tonne has been confirmed by sources in Kuala Lumpur.

Moreover, Datuk Musa Hitam, Malaysian deputy prime minister, said over the weekend that Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia had been discussing setting up a tin cartel. Bolivia may also join the arrangement.

For the last six months, the London and Penang tin markets have been thrown into disarray by heavy buying, first of tin futures and more recently of spot tin. The purchasers are estimated to have spent £250m acquiring 50,000 tonnes of the metal. The London cash price of tin was £7,882.50 a tonne on Friday.

Sources in Kuala Lumpur say that the vehicle for the buying is a private company called Mamincio. This is an acronym for the Malaysian Mining Corporation, the country's main tin mining company which is government-controlled. Both companies have Mr Abdul Rahim Aki as chairman, and executives are believed to have been seconded from MMC to Mamincio.

It is understood that mining interests from Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand have met three times since last April, and trade sources in Kuala Lumpur say that these three men have orchestrated the tin buying.

Oil is Malaysia's biggest earner of foreign exchange, but tin remains important. Malaysia is the world's largest tin producer, accounting for some 60 million tonnes out of world production of less than 200 million tonnes. Thailand and Indonesia produce about 30,000 tonnes each and Bolivia around 27,000. The industrial recession has caused demand for tin to decline, and production surplus of 20,000 tonnes over consumption is expected. Market sources calculate that prices would be £2,000 a tonne less without the support operation.

Compensation argument reopens

By Ronald Pullen

The argument over the terms offered to Britain's aircraft and shipbuilding groups nationalized by the last Labour Government will be reopened in the next few weeks.

The European Community is now having to thrash out the delicate question of whether or not the compensation offered to companies including the Labour Government decided to take the aircraft manufacturing and shipbuilding industries away from the private sector.

Last year several groups, including shipbuilders Yarrow and Vosper Thornycroft, Scott Lithgow, Vickers and GEC decided to press their claim for unfair treatment in the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

The British Government was asked for its "obser-

vations" on the claim several months ago. It had been hoped to give a reply to the Commission by the end of January but because of the complicated and difficult issues involved, as the Government claimed in the House of Commons last December, this has been delayed.

The Department of Industry is still preparing a reply but it should be lodged with the Commission within the next few weeks.

Despite its statements while in Opposition that the compensation terms were grossly unfair, the Conservative Government has argued that it cannot now consider retrospective legislation.

"Any let-up in the fight against inflation would mean throwing away the progress that has been made so far in dealing with it," Mr de Larosiere said.

"To boost demand before inflation has been beaten and supply conditions have been improved can only drive the roots of stagflation deeper," he added.

This appraisal of the world situation and what the industrial countries, in particular, need to do to break what he called the "stranglehold" of economic stagflation was contained in a speech at the European Management Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Union set to test law in Croda bid

By Our Financial Staff

The Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, Mr Clive Jenkins's white collar union, has intervened in Burmah Oil's bitterly contested takeover bid for Croda International in a move which could have far reaching implications.

The union believes its move under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981, which becomes law today, represents a big step in the development of industrial democracy.

The new regulations required that in the case of a takeover such as this an employer must consult with employees over possible redundancies. The union has 6,000 members at Croda, many in senior management, is demanding to know Burmah's plans.

Sir Alan Down, chairman of Burmah, and Sir Freddie Wood, chairman of Croda, will today receive letters drawing their attention to the new legislation.

If the union does not get a satisfactory response, it will take its case to the Employment Appeal Tribunal of the High Court. Meanwhile, if Burmah manages to acquire 100 per cent of Croda, the union said that it could consider an injunction to prevent the deal.

"The whole ball-game of takeover battles will now be different," Mr Roger Lyons, national organizer of the Amalgamated Society of Institutional investors should not regard themselves as free agents in a takeover battle. The union would not take kindly to any institution supporting a bid without all the details.

He denied the allegation made by Mr Lyons that Burmah had a poor track record and dismissed the union's reference to the supposedly planned disposal of its Quinton Hazell subsidiary. The car spares company was bought by Burmah about 10 years ago for about £7m and may now be sold for about half this amount.

Quinton Hazell was acquired after a tough battle and employs more than 7,000 people, but as profits have tumbled Burmah is alleged to have decided that it now lies outside its long term plans. But Burmah denied that jobs were at stake and said Quinton Hazell would continue to have the Burmah's support.

All the groups involved have accepted some compensation — GEC and Vickers shared £95m for their stake in BAC, Yarrow accepted £5m for its shipbuilding division, and Vickers took £14.5m for its shipbuilding interests.

But in accepting the terms, they gave warning to the Government that the 1977 Aircraft and Shipbuilding Act had undervalued the worth of their lost assets.

For the time being the petition is being heard by the European Commission which will report to the Council of Ministers. The final arbiter, if either side does not accept the Commission's mediation, will be the European Court of Human Rights.

Call for concerted attack on inflation

It has become "imperative" for industrial nations to break loose from the economic stagnation that has become a "poison to the world economy" according to Jacques de Larosiere, managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He said, however, that the industrial nations experiencing high inflation, sluggish economic growth and rising unemployment cannot solve these problems by putting the fight against inflation in second place to job-creating measures and other actions.

"Any let-up in the fight against inflation would mean throwing away the progress that has been made so far in dealing with it," Mr de Larosiere said.

This appraisal of the world situation and what the industrial countries, in particular, need to do to break what he called the "stranglehold" of economic stagflation was contained in a speech at the European Management Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

While the developing countries also must undertake "sound" economic adjustments, he stressed that the industrial countries must not ignore the "international dimensions" when they frame their own economic policies.

Leading UK role in \$250m network

Satellites will link world's ships

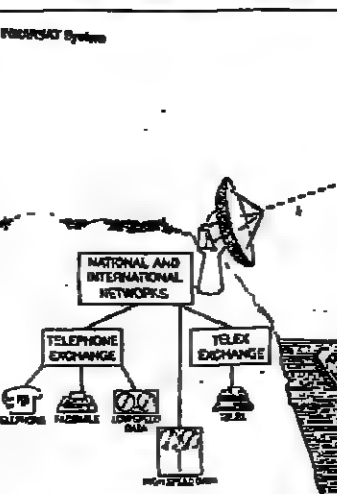
By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

A \$250m satellite communications system comes into operation today which will provide fast, interference-free telephone, telex and data service to and from ships around the world.

Britain will play a major role in the International Maritime Satellite Organization, known as Inmarsat, whose headquarters is in a new 21 storey tower in Vauxhall, south London. British Telecom has invested about £13m in the system, the largest share after the United States and Soviet Union.

British Aerospace was the prime contractor for two of three main satellites, which Inmarsat will lease from the European Space Agency.

The first, Marecs B will be put into orbit over the Pacific in the spring. The Indian Ocean will be served by circuits leased on one of the Intelsat-V satellites later this year.



The new path via satellite of ship-to-shore messages

limited satellite communications for ships since 1976. Marchesa Maria Christina Marconi, widow of the wireless inventor sent the first maritime radio message from the Isle of Wight to the American liner St Paul in 1899, will inaugurate Inmarsat today. She will be sending a welcome telex from London to the thousand ships equipped for satellite communications.

Radio communications have been possible for ships for 82 years but they were expensive and unreliable before it became possible to transmit transmissions off a satellite without fading and interference.

The world's merchant fleet consists of 70,000 ships over 100 tons, Mr Olaf Lundberg, director general of Inmarsat, said, so the potential for growth of mobile satellite communications was enormous. The number of vessels equipped with the one-meter dish antenna necessary to transmit and receive satellite communications is expected to exceed 5,000 by 1990.

A chain of coastal stations will collect ship-bound messages from the national and international telecommunications networks and beam them, as microwave signals, to the appropriate satellite. Signals from the satellites will be also relayed by the stations destinations on shore.

Four stations are operating in the United States and Japan.

Capitalization and week's change

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in Issue for the stock quoted)

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Commercial Property by Gareth David

Demand for offices holds up well in Scotland

Demand for office accommodation in Scotland's leading cities has held up remarkably well in the past year, according to a survey by Kenneth Ryden & Partners, the estate agents, but the picture is different in the retail market.

Shop rents increased in both Glasgow and Edinburgh well above the rate of inflation during the late 1970s, after a period of steady growth. This was followed by a period of rates increases and a fall in tourist numbers. As a result, no fewer than 20 shops in Edinburgh's Princes Street, regarded as one of the best retail pitches in the United Kingdom were placed on the market in 1981. This represents almost one third of the total number, and cut rents from about £100 a sq ft to £90 a sq ft during the first half of 1981.

But as prime rents slipped in both Edinburgh and Glasgow, they have held up well in both regional centres and well placed secondary locations, particularly in Edinburgh, where demand is firm and rental growth, good.

One consequence of the economic climate has been to hasten changes in the retail pattern, Ryden says. Furniture and department stores have been driven off high streets and independent traders and small multiples are finding it difficult to trade in the best locations.

There are a number of big retail developments planned in Scotland illustrating the underlying strength of the retail market, the survey says. These include the Waverley Market and Lady Road schemes in Edinburgh; developments by GUS, Bredero and Athol Investments in Aberdeen; and further phases of shopping centres at East Kilbride, Livingston, Glenrobert, Coatbridge and Kirkcaldy.



Weatherall Green & Smith, the London estate agents, have been appointed European letting agents for Charles H. Shaw's 113,130 sq ft office and banking scheme at 551 Madison Avenue, on the corner of 55th Street in Midtown Manhattan, New York. Rents are from \$42 to \$55 inclusive of real estate taxes and service charges.

In the office market, the demand in Edinburgh remains for small suites of up to 5,000 sq ft, although the second half of 1981 saw two large lettings in the city. Scottish Equitable took 23,000 sq ft in St Andrew Square, while there was a 28,000 sq ft pre-let in Belford Road to the Health and Safety Executive.

Office space dropped marginally during the year to 689,600 sq ft with the number of large units slowly decreasing.

The largest vacant office building is Wimpey Property Holdings' Rosebury House, which extends to 67,300 sq ft. Rents have shown little growth in the past year and remain between £4 and £5 a sq ft, with the figure rising to as much as £6.50 per sq ft for the best small suites.

In Glasgow, demand has centred on units of between 2,000 and 3,000 sq ft with little letting of larger units during the second half of 1981. There is very little

space in the central area, and, as a result, rents have stayed at £6 a sq ft with between £6.50 and £7 expected by the end of 1982.

There are, however, a number of developments under way in St Vincent Street, West Regent Street, West Campbell Street and at Charing Cross, which should provide a further 150,000 sq ft by 1983.

Office lettings in Aberdeen were down in the second half of 1981, but demand is not static and some 70,000 sq ft is under offer, the survey says.

Work has begun on a 220,000 sq ft air conditioned office development above Victoria railway station, the latest scheme to be undertaken by Greycoat Estates.

The group became public only in 1978 when the directors of the private Greycoat Estates group merged with Chasleley Investments, an inactive publicly quoted property company, bringing with it equity stakes in a number of big schemes.

But it was only the £33m takeover of City Offices, agreed last December by the City Offices board, which gave Mr Geoffrey Wilson and Mr Stuart Lipton, the directors, the asset backing they sought, and transformed the group into an important force in the property market.

Attention has inevitably focused on the group's controversial Coin Street proposals, where the public inquiry into the proposed office development of between 885,000 sq ft and 995,000 sq ft is likely to last until the end of March.

The Greycoat share price has risen high on hopes that when Mr Heseltine finally passes judgment on the 12.5-acre site, probably early in the summer, he will give his blessing to one of the two Greycoat schemes designed by Richard Rogers.

LEGAL NOTICES

RE: MOORE BROTHERS (REPRESENTATIVE) LTD (In Liquidation) and the COMPANIES ACT, 1948.

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company are required to submit their claims to the Liquidator, Mr. J. H. Moore, of 1, The Quadrant, London W.C.2, by the 15th day of March, 1982.

DAVID JULIAN BUCKLER (Chartered Accountant)

Tel: (0624) 27548

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